

Information Note¹

Event: Joint mission to Moldova with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to assist in preparation of a voluntary national action plan

Date and Location: 17-18 November, Chişinău, Moldova

Organizers or Sponsors: OSCE and the Government of Moldova, with support from the UN Officer for Disarmament Affairs

Participants: *States:* Moldova
International Organizations: OSCE, UNODA, 1540 Committee expert

1. Objectives for participating in the workshop

- At the request of the Government of Moldova, contribute to the preparation of a national action plan to implement the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004)
- At the request of the Government of Moldova, support the development of a national action plan that will implement the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol
- Assist the Government of Moldova in developing mechanisms to improve control over chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons related materials, prevent or interdict illicit transfers of such materials through Moldova, prevent non-State actors from acquiring such weapons related materials, and improve bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for investigation and prosecution of violators of such controls.

2. Background

This meeting builds on the long-term cooperation of the 1540 Committee, the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), including the emphasis in United Nations Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) for conducting more country specific activities (and for assisting if requested in the development of voluntary national action plans) and the recent OSCE-UNODA Memorandum of Understanding for support for country specific activities for OSCE States.

It also builds on the recommendations from the “Regional Workshop of the Eastern Partnership Countries under the European Union (EU) Joint Action in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)” that took place on 22-24 June 2011 in Chişinău, organized with the UNODA – Geneva branch in which a 1540 Committee expert participated. One direct result

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of this meeting was that Moldova requested assistance from the OSCE 1540 focal point in developing a National Action Plan (NAP).

3. Highlights

The meetings included a presentation by the Ministry of Economy on the Control Division for the Circulation of Dual-Use Goods on the Moldovan export control system, a preliminary discussion by the Round Table of the National Committee for the Biological Weapons Convention, an inter-agency body that contains the key agencies for implementing resolution 1540 in Moldova, and, on the second day, further discussions by the OSCE and UNODA representatives with the inter-agency community.

Moldova discussed some of its initial findings regarding needs and potential priorities. In the next stage, Moldova will identify its national priorities in an initial draft of a national action plan. The OSCE intends to host a meeting in Vienna for representatives of Moldova and the international community to discuss and refine the initial draft.

4. Additional comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org