

Information Note¹

Event:	South Asia Regional Workshop on Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)
Organizers:	Sri Lanka and the United States, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Date and Venue:	23-25 June 2009; Colombo, Sri Lanka
Participants:	<i>States:</i> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United States <i>Other:</i> European Commission <i>International organizations:</i> International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); UN Office for Disarmament Affairs; 1540 Committee member and experts <i>Civil society:</i> Center for International Trade & Security, University of Georgia (CITS); Monterey Institute of International Studies; Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)

1. Objectives

- promote capacity-building at the national and regional levels for the cooperative implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) among South Asian member States;
- present the role of the 1540 Committee in facilitating assistance matching requests and offers;
- explain the importance of the cooperation at the national level with the establishment of appropriate inter-governmental or inter-agency mechanisms and the appointment of a national coordinator for the implementation of the requirements of the resolution;
- conduct bilateral consultations with participating States to discuss further actions to be considered by States in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Highlights and Bilateral Consultations

- Participating States shared their national experiences in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). The regional approach was welcome by all the representatives of States.
- In addition to presentations by the 1540 Committee Vice Chairman and experts on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), representatives from participating organizations and other entities presented specific programmes and activities that assist States in meeting the resolution's requirements. The European Commission and the IAEA discussed their assistance programs and U.S. representatives outlined the Export

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Control and Related Border Security program and the Megaport Initiative. Representatives of participating NGOs outlined their respective assistance programs to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States.

- Participating States had the opportunity to discuss with the 1540 Committee Vice Chairman and experts the current challenges in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), assistance requests, and the appointment of national coordinators. The bilateral consultations also addressed 1540 matrices issues, opportunities for inter-regional cooperation, and tools for capacity-building.
- In concluding the workshop, the 1540 Committee Vice Chairman underscored that one of the most important outcomes of the workshop has been thorough discussions on the Committee's role on assistance noting that the Committee was in a unique position to facilitate the entire process, from assisting States to identify lacunae in their national legislation, to contacting different donors whose programmes of assistance can match with country needs. He mentioned that the preparation of voluntary national action plans identifying priorities and mapping out measures to be adopted and implemented would be useful as well as the appointment of national points of contacts, for coordination purposes. The Vice Chairman also noted that the workshop highlighted the importance of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations as well as civil society entities whose programs and expertise can assist States in their efforts in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

3. Additional comments

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