

Information Note¹

- Event:** **Workshop on Implementing Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for Arab States**
- Organizers:** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in cooperation with the Government of Qatar as host country; funded by the European Union and the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States
- Date and Venue:** 8-10 March 2009; Doha, Qatar
- Participants:** *Participating States:* Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as Austria, France, Mongolia, United Kingdom, United States
- Other:* European Union
- International organizations and entities:* Biological Weapons Convention-Implementation Support Unit (BWCISU), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), League of Arab States, Middle East and North African Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), Middle East and North Africa Regional Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), UNODC, 1540 Committee Members; 1540 Committee experts
- Civil society:* Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

1. Objectives

- Promote awareness of the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) and its full implementation;
- Facilitate sharing of experiences on practical issues relating to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly border and export controls;
- Explore regional cooperation that can be used to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- Encourage cooperation arrangements through assistance programmes and the 1540 assistance template;
- Conduct bilateral consultations with the participating States to discuss specific assistance requests and encourage the submission of additional information, such as a summary action plan for implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The workshop held in Qatar was the second in a series of UNODA-organized regional workshops to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The workshop focused primarily on the main elements of border and export controls and was specifically tailored for border, customs and regulatory officials from the participating Arab States. It aimed at encouraging experience-sharing in related areas and at the identification of specific capacity-

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building measures that are responsive to regional and specific national requirements. The workshop served as a platform for raising awareness of available offers or programmes of technical assistance.

The workshop's programme included presentations on: national mechanisms to monitor export, re-export, transit and trans-shipments; international and regional efforts and approaches of international and regional organizations to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); and available assistance programmes to facilitate the implementation of the resolution. Discussions took place on trade facilitation and security, risk assessment and management, examination techniques and technical detection capabilities and cooperation with industry and the academic community.

3. Highlights

The workshop served as a forum for participating officials to discuss ways to enhance national capacities and effective management of border and export control processes in a manner consistent with the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004). The workshop highlighted illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials as a new dimension of proliferation, resulting in participants exchanging information on national mechanisms to improve monitoring of exports, re-exports, transit and transshipment of such materials. The workshop also underlined the relevance of a regional approach and the necessity to increase the level of dialogue and cooperation between the participating States and regional organizations. Participants were also able to share experiences and lessons learned including on the establishment of national committees or directorates to prevent the proliferation of WMD and related materials, as well as on developing links with industry and academia that assist licensing and customs authorities on ways to prevent illicit trafficking.

4. Bilateral consultations

Bilateral consultations were held between a delegation of each participating State and 1540 Committee Members and experts, focusing on next steps of implementation and, as appropriate, identifying areas of cooperation, including assistance. These consultations highlighted three themes:

- the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as an important policy objective;
- legislative and other measures to provide support in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- opportunities for technical cooperation in the implementation of the resolution.

5. Additional comments

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