

Information Note¹

Event: Participation in a meeting of the Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG)

Organizers: Germany on behalf of the G-7 Global Partnership

Date and venue: 30 September and 1 October 2015, Berlin, Germany

Participants: Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

European Union (EU), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

1540 Committee Group of Experts, Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), United Nations Inter-Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

Centre for Scientific Culture Alessandro Volta (Centro-Volta) (Italy), International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICSS) (Poland), Robert Koch Institute (Germany), Mazovia Cluster ICT, World Institute for Nuclear Security.

1. Background

- 1540 Committee experts have been regular participants in GPWG meetings since 2010.
- Under the German presidency the GPWG operates with four GPWG sub-Working Groups: Biological Security Sub-Working Group (BSWG), Chemical Security Sub-Working Group (CSWG), Nuclear and Radiological Security Sub-Working Group (NRSWG), and Centres of Excellence sub-Working Group (CoESWG).
- States that are major assistance providers participate along with the international and regional organisations most relevant to 1540 implementation.

¹ For information - not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

2. Highlights and discussions

The substance of the discussions was conducted in concurrently run sub-working groups. A site visit took place on 1 October to Federal Office for radiation protection, similarly a top-table exercise on biological security took place on a fictional scenario regarding the GP and biosecurity, as well as demonstration of equipment and skills of the German special task force in the field of chemical detection.

During the Opening Plenary, the German Deputy Federal Commissioner for Disarmament, Arms control and non-proliferation, Ambassador Susanne Baumann referred to the priorities of the German Presidency, i.e. assistance to Ukraine and the Ebola crisis. She also mentioned the GP support to the Nuclear Security Summit Process and to the destruction of WMD in Syria.

The 1540 expert informed participants about the planned 1540 Assistance Conference for African States to be held in Addis Ababa in February/March 2016 organized by the African Union Commission. He reported on the preparatory meeting that took place the preceding week in Vienna. He made reference to the assistance requests received by the 1540 Committee and invited participants to have a close look at them with a view to consider responding to these requests.

In the framework of a match-making session, representatives of participating States and international organizations approached the 1540 experts. Among other issues, the experts exchanged views on the 1540 Committee assistance mechanism.

At the final plenary, the chairs of the different sub-working groups presented the results of their activities and the delegation of Japan informed the participants the future goals for their 2016 chairmanship, which included the coordination between the G7 GP and the Nuclear Security Summit, the definition of a GP Global Action Plan and the development of CBRN defence activities.

3. Additional Comments

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