

Information Note¹

- Event:** Participation in a meeting of the Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG)
- Organisers:** Germany on behalf of the G-7 Global Partnership
- Date and Venue:** 22 and 23 April 2015, Munich, Germany
- Participants:**
- Governments:*** Representatives from:
Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United States.
- Regional Organisations:*** Representatives from:
European Union (EU), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- International Organisations:*** Representatives from:
1540 Committee Group of Experts, Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), United Nations Inter-Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nation Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
- Non-Governmental Organisations:*** Representatives from:
Centre for Scientific Culture Alessandro Volta (Centro-Volta) (Italy), International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICSS) (Poland), Robert Koch Institute (Germany).

1. Background

- 1540 Committee experts have been regular participants in GPWG meetings since 2010.
- Now under a German presidency the GPWG operates with four 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).
- The sub-working groups include “matchmaking” sessions in their discussions for assistance providers to identify projects they might support in response to known assistance requests.

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

- States that are major assistance providers participate along with the international and regional organisations most relevant to 1540 implementation.

2. Highlights

The event was conducted over two days (22 and 23 April). There were short opening and closing plenaries. The substance of the discussions was conducted in concurrently run sub-working groups. Site visits took place on 23 April to the Technical University of Munich (Neutron Source Facility), Bundeswehr Institute for Microbiology and Munich Airport (for chemical security matters). Two sub-working groups, for Global Partnership Member States only, also met to discuss expansion and outreach and a “strategic vision” paper.

Chile and Portugal participated in this meeting for the first time as full members of the Global Partnership

In the course of the meeting the 1540 Experts drew attention to a summary of current assistance requests submitted to the 1540 Committee and indicated the readiness of the 1540 Experts present to discuss with States and international organisations any of the requests listed. They also outlined the forthcoming Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), saying that the 1540 Committee will be reaching out to consult Member States and the relevant international organisations. They said that the Committee would, in particular, welcome ideas on how to make the 1540 assistance system more efficient and responsive.

The German presidency announced that the next meeting of the GPWG is scheduled to take place in Berlin on 30 September and 1 October 2015.

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