

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** Seminar on Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism (SCWMD/T)
- Organizers:** The George C. Marshall Center – European Center for Security Studies
- Date and Venue:** 11 April 2011; Garmisch, Germany
- Participants:** Representatives of Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Croatia, Israel, Jordan, Macedonia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, and United States.

### 1. Objectives

- Providing national security professionals a comprehensive overview on the existing international instruments aiming at combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the threat posed by non-State actors, including terrorists, that may attempt to illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials;
- Sharing information on how to conduct counter-proliferation and online under-covered investigations through the presentation of case studies;

### 2. Background

In September 2010, two representatives from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), visited the 1540 Committee Experts to explore possibilities for future cooperation. Prior to this visit, DTRA representatives had participated in several events relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and attended by 1540 Committee members and experts. DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense's official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction and addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. The participation of the 1540 Committee expert in the Seminar on Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism (SCWMD/T) represented an opportunity to improve the cooperation with DTRA and to raise awareness among the participants about the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

### **3. Overview**

The presentation of resolution 1540 (2004) opened the morning session. The 1540 Committee expert had the opportunity to present the main contents of the resolution, focusing, in particular, on the significance of resolution 1540 (2004) as a binding instrument, adopted unanimously by the Security Council under chapter VII of the UN Charter, which adds illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, as a new dimension of proliferation, and recognises the nexus between proliferation and non-State actors, including terrorists.

Furthermore, it was noted the added value of resolution 1540 (2004) in the international framework of instruments against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, underlining the complementarities as well as aspects of divergence.

The 1540 Committee expert presented the work of the 1540 Committee based on dialogue, cooperation, assistance, outreach and transparency using the 1540 matrices as an important tool for dialogue and assistance and a valid collection of national legislation.

### **4. Additional notes**

Some participants expressed the need to have a sort of generally agreed definitions to facilitate cooperation among States in conducting investigations and to facilitate mutual legal assistance in prosecution activities when the dimension of the crime is transnational. Some others expressed the need to improve the national capacity from adopting legislation to establishing a control system on such items noting appreciation for the 1540 Committee clearing house role in dealing with assistance requests and offers.

### **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)