

Information Note¹

- Event:** A comprehensive Approach to Combating Illicit Trafficking
- Date and Venue:** 28-29 September 2009, Geneva, Switzerland
- Organizers:** Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis (IFPA) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
- Participants:** *States:* Switzerland, United States
- International organisations:* BWC-ISU, EU, EUROPOL, IAEA, IATA, ICRC, ILO, INTERPOL, IOM, NATO, OIE, OSCE, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICRI, UNIDIR, UNODA (Geneva Branch), UNODC, UNWFP, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WTO, 1540 Committee expert
- Other:* Association Romande des Intermediaires Financiers, National Institute for Public Policy, Takushoku University, WMD Insights, World Economic Forum

1. Objectives

- Gather international organizations, inter-governmental organizations and other institutional stakeholders that are actively involved, in various ways, in activities against illicit trafficking, in order to enable exchange of experience with a view to identify possible areas of cooperation;
- Discuss the overall challenges of illicit trafficking in their diversity;
- Address all kinds of illicit trafficking (WMD-related illicit trafficking, but also human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, etc...) as well as the different institutional responses, in order to identify commonalities, similarities, and also specificities;
- Explore the issue of a “comprehensive approach” that would be based on a network of institutional actors of various natures involved in the fight against illicit trafficking, bearing in mind the respective mandates and areas of responsibilities of the existing bodies.

2. Background

The workshop was conceived on the assumption that:

- the different kinds of illicit trafficking are increasingly intertwined;
- an effective strategy against illicit trafficking implies to resort to a broad set of various and complementary measures, beyond mere actions against fluxes;
- at the organizational level, some improvements are possible to better synchronize and synergize existing efforts; and,
- mutual understanding, among institutional partners, of each other’s role, capacities, capabilities and strategies, is a prerequisite toward increased cooperation.

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.

3. Highlights

The introductory session framed the overall problem of illicit trafficking in its many guises and allowed discussions on the merits of a comprehensive approach-strategy that would contribute to coordinating more effectively the various contributions of the individual international organizations and other stakeholders combating illicit trafficking.

The first part of the thematic session on institutional responses was organized by type of trafficking: trafficking in CBRN materials (and WMD proliferation); drug trafficking; human trafficking; money laundering and counterfeiting.

The second part of the thematic session on institutional responses was organized by trafficking route: air; maritime; overland.

The third thematic session was devoted to possible priorities and options for enhanced coordination.

4. Additional comments

A detailed report is available on the website of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, at <http://www.ifpa.org/pdf/IFPA-GCSPTraffickingReport.pdf>

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