

Information Note¹

Event	International Cooperation on Nuclear Security in Arabic-speaking States, part of the Regional Workshop on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans for Arabic-speaking States
Organisers	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with the Government of Egypt through the Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA)
Date and Venue	15 and 16 April 2015, Cairo, Egypt
Participants	States: Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. Organisations: 1540 Committee Group of Experts, International Atomic Energy Agency, Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA), Naif University (Saudi Arabia) Observers: Canada, EU, UK, US

1. Objectives.

- To make a presentation on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and its relationship with IAEA Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP).
- To highlight the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) and INSSPs.
- To engage the representatives of the participant States in bilateral discussions.

2. Background

The IAEA invited the 1540 Committee Chair to nominate an expert to participate in the session on International Cooperation on Nuclear Security in Arabic-speaking States, part of the Regional Workshop on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP) for Arabic-speaking States.

The main purpose of the session was to identify common nuclear security needs and discuss ways to meet them. It complemented the INSSP Workshop

3. Overview

The Regional Workshop had several elements: sharing Member State experiences with Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP); inputs from the IAEA, the 1540 Committee representative, and assistance providers; and an opportunity for participants to meet separately.

In the first segment Member States agreed on a number of areas where action was needed, including: reinforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks; maintaining

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effective accounting systems; upgrading physical protection; and raising awareness of senior officials, the last of which the 1540 Expert suggested might benefit from invitations to the 1540 Committee to make national visits.

In the sessions afterwards, representatives from IAEA, AAEA, and NAUSS stated respectively that:

- INSSPs are the preferred platform for Member States to obtain IAEA nuclear security. Nonetheless, regional cooperation is important and there is benefit in interactions between working level practitioners. Implementation of INSSPs helps meet the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004).
- AAEA is a coordinating body whose nuclear security activities include: research, manpower development; exchange of information; and regulations for safe handling of radioactive materials. The Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators is the focus for sharing of safety and security issues and receives support from the IAEA, the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety, and the U.S. NRC.
- NAUSS is unique in the Arab world. Students can earn Diplomas, Master's Degrees, or a Ph.D. from the Department of Security. Courses include, for example, WMD, nuclear security, and investigation and forensic science. NAUSS is part of the International Nuclear Security Education Network.

Assistance providers made overviews of their respective programmes, and their organization, areas of interest, and funding levels for improvements in nuclear security.

The 1540 expert described the resolution's obligations and the 1540 Committee. He noted the congruence between the INSSP process and the development and implementation of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP) that help to fulfil the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004). He highlighted mechanisms available to assist states, for example, national visits, and reiterated the Committee's assistance role.

The expert took advantage of time available for bilateral consultations to meet with the representative of a non-reporting state to encourage reporting.

4. Additional Comments

Participation for the 1540 Committee' Group of Experts in this meeting strengthened the relationship between the Committee and the IAEA and permitted meaningful informal discussions with States participating in the Workshop. The IAEA values this collaboration and plans to invite the Committee to be represented similar meeting in the future. Committee participation in such meetings will advance fulfilment of its goals
