

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

<b>Event:</b>	<b>Regional Workshop on Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention</b>
<b>Venue &amp; Date:</b>	16-17 April 2009; Istanbul, Turkey
<b>Organizers:</b>	The Government of Turkey and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
<b>Participants:</b>	68 States, European Union, NATO, League of Arab States, UNODA, 1540 Committee expert

### 1. Objectives

- explain the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) in the promotion of the universal adoption and full implementation of non-proliferation treaties;
- highlight the linkage between resolution 1540 (2004) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);
- report on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and encourage international cooperation efforts.

### 2. Background

The workshop was held to promote awareness of the CWC among States in the Middle East and encourage its universalization. The agenda included an item on encouraging further contribution to the global efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring chemical weapons, for example, by cooperating with international organizations to address WMD challenges.

### 3. Highlights

In opening the workshop on behalf of Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Under-Secretary Ambassador Unal Cevikoz pointed out that the most effective way to cope with the threat of WMD-related terrorism was through a concerted effort of the international community, comprising both global and regional efforts, and that the universalization of international disarmament and arms control instruments would help to curb the trend of proliferation. Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the OPCW, stressed that the international community should reinforce efforts to put an end to illicit trafficking in WMD and their means of delivery and to illicit procurement networks.

Participating States had the opportunity to share their experiences, initiatives, and developments in WMD-proliferation prevention and counter-terrorism activities. Presentations were made on topics of effective threat assessments, international cooperation, and new regional strategies to respond to the continuing threat.

---

<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.

The 1540 Committee expert outlined the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), the similarities and differences between it and the CWC, and stressed that the implementation of non-proliferation treaties can contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The European Union representative outlined how the European Union WMD Strategy promotes and supports full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by offering assistance and encouraging internal compliance.

The workshop highlighted the need for further progress in disarmament, non-proliferation, and the advancement of prospects for peace in the Middle East and Mediterranean basin.

#### **4. Additional comments**

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