

Information Note¹

- Event:** Meeting to assist the Moldovan authorities to develop a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) for UN Security Council Resolution 1540.
- Organizers:** The Government of Moldova in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the European Commission
- Date and Venue:** 8- 9 October 2015, Chisinau, Moldova
- Participants:** *Moldovan Governmental officials:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Defence, Customs Administration, National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Security Agency, and others.
- UN entities, international/regional organizations:* United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), 1540 Committee experts, European Commission and Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Union
- Others:* United States (Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program (EXBS)), Verification Education, Research, Technology and Information Centre (VERTIC)

Objectives of Participation by the 1540 Experts:

- To discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Moldova
- To assist Moldova's authorities with development and drafting of voluntary 1540 NAP.
- To discuss any assistance needs and requests that may be included in the NAP.

Background

The OSCE has been very active with regard to regional and national implementation efforts of resolution 1540 (2004) including through a series of OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions, the establishment of a 1540 coordination mechanism within the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) of the OSCE Secretariat, as well as through numerous initiatives of its Participating States at the

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national level, including the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans to implement resolution 1540 (2004), with the support of OSCE, resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of the necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). On January 22, 2012 the Group of Experts, at the invitation of the Moldovan Government organised a videoconference focusing specifically on implementation issues of resolution 1540 (2004) and the progress made by the Republic of Moldova in specific areas. The Experts provided detailed explanations of the procedures and typical contents of a voluntary NAP and a visit to a State. The Government of Moldova reaffirmed its intention to prepare a NAP and discussed the ongoing inter-ministerial process for finalizing it.

In collaboration with OSCE, the Moldovan Government has now developed a National CBRN Strategy and on 31 July 2015 invited the 1540 Committee, through the OSCE, to appoint experts to take part in a meeting on the development of a NAP for UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Moldova submitted four reports to the 1540 Committee. The latest was submitted in 2013.

Overview

The workshop was organized as a Joint workshop on National Security Strategy and on a 1540 National Action Plan.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Victor Popescu, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova. He stressed the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, fight against CBRN terrorism and illicit trafficking in CBRN materials and technologies, as well as the importance for his country of the development of efficient 1540 NAP and National Strategy and National Action Plan for mitigation of CBRN risks and threats.

The 1540 Committee Experts, OSCE, UNODA and VERTIC provided presentations related to the implementation of the resolution 1540, providing to Moldovan national stakeholders a better understanding of the importance of undertakings under resolution 1540, its scope and objectives, as well as of the utility of developing of 1540 National Implementation Action Plan in this respect.

The European Commission and Joint Research Centre, (European Union) were represented at the meeting with a team of nine experts. They presented the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE), Risk Mitigation Initiative and made several presentations on further work on Moldova National CBRN Strategy, based on a Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) updated results, activities of international organisations and CBRN scenario examples, as well as on the review and update of the NAQ identifying the synergies with Moldova's National CBRN Strategy.

Under the facilitation of UNICRI and OSCE a possible structure of a National Action Plan was discussed. Taking into account a wish of Moldova's governmental representatives to combine elements of 1540 NAP and CBRN action plan in one document, the 1540 experts suggested that the 1540 elements of the plan be clearly identified (prevention and detection of CBRN threats and relevant legal and regulatory measures) in its title and structure. This approach was supported by representatives of OSCE, UNICRI and UNODA.

It was decided that Moldova will continue to work on the draft National Strategy and the structure of the NAP and will forward an amended version of the document to all organisations participating in the meeting by 15 November 2015.

Additional Comments

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