

Information Note¹

Event	1540 Peer review conducted by Croatia and Poland (visit to Poland)
Organisers	The Governments of Poland and Croatia with the support of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Date and Venue	2 – 4 October 2013, Warsaw, Poland
Participants	<i>Poland:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, National Atomic Energy Agency, Border Guards, Customs Service, Police, Prosecution General, International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Tarnow <i>Croatia:</i> Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Defense, State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety, Customs Administration, Security Agency, State Office for the Trade Policy, Border Police Directorate <i>UN:</i> UNODA and 1540 Committee Group of Experts

Objectives for experts participation

- Participate as observers in the discussions and presentations with a view to providing feedback to the 1540 Committee.
- Facilitate discussions, as appropriate, at the invitation of the host country and the visiting delegation, including on the preparation of the final report and the follow-up activities.

Background

In a joint letter, dated 18 March 2013, Croatia and Poland informed the 1540 Committee of their intention to initiate a peer review on the topic of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) between those two countries. This peer review initiative was devised as a process, consisting of preparatory meetings, and, in its main part, the exchange of visits of the delegations to the two countries. The visit of the Polish Delegation to Croatia took place from 17 - 19 June 2013 (the relevant information note has been published on the Committee's website: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/outreach-events/events.shtml>).

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.

The visit of the Croatian delegation to Warsaw was the second segment of the peer review process. In their joint letter to the Committee, dated 23 August 2013, both States again invited members of the Group of Experts to observe this part of the process.

Poland and Croatia continued to be the main stakeholders of the peer-review, as host country and visiting delegation. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, which contributed in the planning and organization, also participated.

Highlights

As was the case for the first segment of the peer review process, the programme focused on effective national practices for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the identification of such practices that could eventually be shared with the Committee in the context of operative paragraph 12 of resolution 1977 (2011). The workshop included a mix of plenary sessions, an on-site visit including practical exercises at the airport of Warsaw, as well as discussions on case scenarios in small groups. The programme was drafted in consideration of the results of the first segment of the peer review and the Polish hosts responded to questions raised and issues discussed in Zagreb.

The workshop was opened with statements by the heads of delegation, Mr. Adam Bugajski, Director of the Security Policy Department of the Polish MFA, and Ms. Dubravka Plejić-Marković, Directorate for NATO and International Security of the Croatian MFA. Both speakers pointed to the findings on the use of chemical weapons in Syria and argued that these events demonstrated the need to strengthen global non-proliferation efforts and in particular the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). They also expressed their hope that the peer review mechanism could be a model for other States to follow and to provide support for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

During the first day, several aspects of Polish implementation practices of resolution 1540 (2004) were presented and discussed. Topics included: internal cooperation and inter-agency coordination; the 1540-related competences of Polish Customs; the Polish radiological and nuclear crisis management system; Polish Border Guards' competences in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); export control related IT technologies; and cooperation with industry in relation to the Chemical Weapons Convention (including through the *International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security* in Tarnów).

The second day was devoted to a visit the airport of Warsaw where Polish Border Guards and Customs provided practical insights into their internal organisation, their risk assessment capabilities, equipment, procedures as well as examples of detection cases involving strategic items. A practical exercise involving a suspicious shipment and a possible "dirty bomb" scenario gave a demonstration of how Polish authorities would handle such a case from its early detection to the disposal of the suspicious items away from the airport premises. The exercise involved a wide variety of concerned authorities and thus highlighted the need for effective inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

For the next workshop session, the 1540 Committee experts were asked to facilitate a discussion on the basis of short mock cases which covered different 1540-related scenarios. The two delegations were invited to comment on how the authorities of their State would react or manage the situations in question.

The workshop concluded with a summary session in which the delegations reflected on the outcomes of both workshops and identified a set of effective practices for the final report and for sharing with other States. These practices include:

- Developing a national strategy to implement resolution 1540 (2004) (and/or broader non-proliferation objectives) in a single document to guide authorities (Croatian practice);
- Establishing a dedicated inter-agency group or committee on 1540-related matters (including on risks or threats) and assure regular communication between involved stakeholders (Croatian and Polish practice);
- Ensuring regular information exchange on 1540-related matters through the development of mutual cooperation agreements between different agencies (Polish practice);
- Cooperating with industry and academia and developing specific outreach strategies or programmes (Croatian and Polish practice);
- Developing the use of different IT tools to facilitate information exchange, communication, risk analysis, licensing decisions etc. (Croatian and Polish practice);
- Using diplomatic posts for gathering of information in the export control licensing process (Polish practice).

Both delegations also agreed that the concept of peer review process between States proved to be a very effective practice as a mutual and transparent way to discuss and identify implementation practices.

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