

Information Note¹

Event:	Workshop on Radiological Source Security and Safety in the Pacific, under the auspices of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)
Organizers:	Government of New Zealand
Date and Venue:	28 April 2009; Port Vila, Vanuatu
Participants:	<i>States:</i> Australia Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu. <i>International organizations:</i> International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), 1540 Committee Member, 1540 Committee expert

1. Objectives

- Encourage across-government communication and decision-making processes regarding public health, border, export and customs as they relate to resolution 1540 (2004);
- Identify where assistance requests for implementing GICNT may complement the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the workshop to focus on measures that States in the Pacific Islands region might undertake with respect to combating nuclear terrorism and non-proliferation in line with GICNT. The workshop took place prior to the UNODA-organised workshop on resolution 1540 (2004) from 29 April-1 May, and the OCO Annual Conference from 4-8 May, both events also focusing on border controls and related issues. The three events were held consecutively at the same venue to facilitate travel logistics as well as reinforce complementarity of related activities to support international instruments and requirements addressed by the three events.

3. Highlights

The workshop discussions addressed issues how GICNT principles were also relevant to resolution 1540 (2004), including improving nuclear and radioactive material detection across borders, developing effective accounting and control systems, and promoting information sharing.

The 1540 Committee Member and expert dialogued with representatives from national organizations, such as the New Zealand National Radiation Laboratory and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, whose mandates could support States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). They discussed the ways in which the 1540 Committee could be informed of assistance requests made to these organisations and, as appropriate in facilitating such requests, as part of the Committee's clearinghouse role in assistance.

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.

4. Bilateral consultations

The 1540 Committee expert conducted dialogues with individual States, including providing the country with its matrix and discussing its content, regarding their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

5. Additional comments

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