

Information Note¹

Event: **Regional Workshop on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) Concerning Preventing Terrorists from Access to Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Organizers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in cooperation with the UNSCR 1540 Committee and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Date and Venue: 11-12 December 2010; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Participants: *States and Organization:* Representatives from capitals or local embassies of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates; approx. 150 experts, senior policy makers, and stakeholders in resolution 1540 (2004) from Saudi Arabia; Ambassadors and representatives from embassies of UNSC permanent members and Mexico (current member of the Security Council); Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
Other Expertise: 1540 Committee Chairman, two 1540 Committee Members (Lebanon and Mexico), two 1540 Committee experts; United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) staff member.

1. Objectives

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004), the work of the 1540 Committee and related non-proliferation issues with participating States and organizations.
- Maintain cooperation and constructive dialogue with participating States regarding their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), identifying inter-departmental communication useful in facilitating implementation and preparation of future reports.
- Note information updates on status of implementation including new legislation and regulatory measures, capacity building and requests and offers of assistance.
- Explore what contribution the GCC as a regional organization might make in future to facilitate its member States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region was announced as an initiative of the Government of Saudi Arabia at the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. The workshop provided an opportunity to continue dialogues on 1540 implementation with the GCC Member States, previously undertaken with officials at respective missions to the UN in New York and outreach events including: UNODA-organized regional workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), Doha, March 2009; UNODC/TPB Common Strategy workshop, Abu Dhabi, June 2009; ECSSR-FRS regional workshop on resolution 1540 (2004), Abu Dhabi, October 2009; League of Arab States (LAS) regional workshop on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD, Cairo, October 2009; the Nuclear Security Summit preparatory meeting, The Hague, February 2010.

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.

3. **Highlights**

The workshop was opened by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Relations. He emphasized the importance of the workshop to promote Arab efforts to prevent proliferation of WMD and to prevent terrorist access to such weapons and related materials. He added that relevant government agencies in the Kingdom have taken significant complementary steps to implement resolution 1540 (2004) at the national level, including participating in workshops affiliated with resolution 1540 (2004), supporting a Middle East zone free of WMD, and establishing national organizational frameworks to implement the multilateral non-proliferation agreements to which it is Party.

The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) stated that he appreciated Saudi Arabia hosting this timely workshop on resolution 1540 (2004) and stressed the support of the GCC Secretariat for the workshop's success. He expressed GCC support for all types of measures – unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral – to obtain desired results for the workshop and promote peace and security in the region and globally.

The Chairman of the 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Ambassador Claude Heller, praised the efforts of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in support of resolution to prevent access of WMD to terrorists. He emphasized that during the Mexican tenure of the Chair of the 1540 Committee, he had a personal priority to consolidate the work of the Committee as a platform of cooperation, and in that context, welcomed participating in the workshop which served as such a forum on resolution 1540 (2004) for the GCC States. In the context of States considering nuclear energy among the options of future long-term energy resources, he stated that resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to adopt appropriate legislation and regulatory frameworks to assure the security of such nuclear-related technology for peaceful use if such options do materialize.

The workshop covered all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) and broader non-proliferation issues, the work of the 1540 Committee and practical ways forward to implement the resolution, including on future reporting. It featured an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sharing experience on the Kingdom's implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee Member from Lebanon elaborated the role that Member States of the 1540 Committee can have to facilitate implementation of the resolution while the 1540 Committee Member from Mexico highlighted the role of the Committee itself. The representative from UNODA spoke on the roles that non-proliferation and related treaties, regional approaches, and civil society have on implementation of the resolution. The 1540 Committee experts presented practical approaches to facilitate implementation of the resolution including in the areas of legislative prohibitions, the safety-security nexus of physical protection of dual-use goods; national authorities covering implementation of multiple treaties; contribution of the GCC Customs Council to implementation of the resolution's operative paragraph 3 on border and export controls. During a field visit to Riyadh's Dry Port, Saudi authorities demonstrated newly installed detection capabilities.

4. **Bilateral consultations**

The 1540 Committee experts engaged in bilateral dialogues with the participating delegations, with follow-up to continue also with their Missions to the UN in New York.

5. **Additional comments**

Coverage of the workshop includes at www.alriyadh.com/2010/12/12/article584586.html and www.alriyadh.com/2010/12/08/article583438.html.

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