

Information Note¹

Event:	Workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 for Saudi Customs Officials
Organizer(s):	Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Directorate-General of the Saudi Customs)
Venue and Date:	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 14-15 January 2013
Participants:	Host country: Customs officials and Ministry of Foreign Affairs International, regional and sub-regional organizations: World Customs Organization (WCO) and 1540 Committee experts

1. Objectives of the workshop

The workshop was aimed at providing training to Saudi Customs officials to raise their awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) and its subsequent resolutions and to facilitate the fullest implementation of the resolution at their national level. It was also designed to facilitate the customs/export control regulations based on Saudi Arabia's national conditions and taking into account the obligations stemming from resolution 1540 (2004) and its subsequent resolutions.

The 1540 Committee experts participated in this event to:

- Provide detailed and expert advice on the obligations of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), with a focus on requirements stemming from operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular on export and border controls, and the role played by the 1540 Committee, with the aim of raising awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among Saudi Customs officials.
- Share information on the purpose of the 1540 Matrices, national reports, voluntary action plans, national points of contact, and visits to States at their invitation, with the purpose of facilitating Saudi Arabia's full implementation.
- Share information on coordination with UN member states, regional and international organizations on providing resolution 1540-related assistance, and emphasizing the clearinghouse role of the 1540 Committee to facilitate the delivery of assistance.
- Share information on the status of implementation, to facilitate full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at regional level, especially within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and League of Arab States (LAS).

2. Background

- His Highness Prince Dr Turki bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Kabeer, on 28 September 2012 at the High Level event on nuclear terrorism announced that the Kingdom will contribute \$500,000 to

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support activities that promote the implementation of the resolution, echoing the announcement made at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in March 2012.

- This workshop is the second event hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the 10 December 2012 dinner to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- The preparation of the training workshop was done in liaison with the World Customs Organization.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia submitted its first national report to the Committee on 1 November 2004, and submitted additional information to the Committee on 28 March 2006 and 24 March 2011.
- All the six GCC states have submitted their reports. Three Member States of the League of Arab States (Comoros, Mauritania and Somalia) have not yet submitted a report to the Committee.

3. **Highlights**

The workshop was very successful in raising awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Saudi Customs community, and in discussing concrete aspects of the implementation of the resolution, in particular with regard to export and border controls. The workshop represented an important milestone in the cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as one of the projects discussed in 2012 between the Chairman of the 1540 Committee and the Director for Disarmament Affairs in the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the context of Saudi Arabia pledging US \$ 500,000 in support of activities related to resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Additional comments**

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