

Information Note¹

- Event:** 12th International Export Control Conference: “Building a Network of Nonproliferators”
- Organizers:** The Governments of Singapore, the United States, and the European Union
- Date and Venue:** 24-26 May 2011, Singapore
- Participants:** *States or Other Economies (77):* Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belgium; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Brazil; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Canada; Chile; DR Congo; Croatia; France; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Hong Kong SAR; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan; Laos; Latvia; Lebanon; Lithuania; Macao SAR; FRY of Macedonia; Malaysia; Maldives; Malta; Mexico; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Namibia; Nepal; Netherlands; Nigeria; Oman; Pakistan; Philippines; Poland; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovenia; Singapore; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Thailand; Turkey; Turkmenistan; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.
- Organizations (10):* ASEAN; Australia Group; European Union; IAEA; UNICRI; UNODC; 1540 Committee; 1874 Committee; Wassenaar Arrangement; and the WCO
- Other Expertise (7):* Booz, Allen, Hamilton; Flemish Peace Institute; MIIS; Nonproliferation Center in Armenia; Stanley Foundation; SIPRI; and CITS/UGA.

1. **Objectives of the workshop**

- Promote effective border security and export controls for trade in strategic items
- Establish a network of export control and border security officials in nonproliferation, and facilitate capacity-building.

2. **Background**

This conference series typically brings together border and export control officials from sixty or more States, especially, but not limited to, those engaged with the US Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program. The event provides the premier global opportunity for discussions among members and non-members of the international export

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the view of the 1540 Committee nor of the organizers or participants in the workshop.

control regimes to exchange views on a variety of technical issues, such as the status of their border and export control systems, effective practices and shared experiences, emerging threats, and exploring opportunities for increased cooperation and technical assistance. By seeking better means to combat illicit flows of nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile dual-use items, the conferences also give officials an opportunity to examine issues that cut across the major WMD systems. This is the first time the conference was held in Asia.

Representatives of the 1540 Committee participated in the 7th- 11th conferences, where they were able to promote implementation of the resolution, advise states on reporting, gather data on measures taken by states, identify points of contact, and discuss opportunities for cooperation on issue of assistance.

3. **Highlights**

This year, the conference altered its approach from a series of plenary sessions and three break-out groups to several plenary sessions and five break-out groups, with each of the later conducting hands-on table-top like exercises. The plenary sessions included one on the state of play for international export control networks, a round table on the multilateral export control arrangements, a round table on responding to threats and due diligence in transit, a session on the role of regional organizations, and a session on building a network of nonproliferators. The break-out groups included one on international nonproliferation requirements and consolidating best practices into a global standard and Model Strategic Law components, another on examining differences in licensing requirements between list and catch-all controls and similarities in the application process of listed and catch-all controls, one on incentivising compliance with enhanced facilitation and partnering with industry, a group on prevention/investigation and prosecution, and a group on integrated border management and information fusion empowering and indemnifying front line officials

A presentation on a study of trade in advanced technology products (ATPs) in 219 HS Commodity Codes at the six digit level shows that adopting controls on strategic trade has no negative impact on the value and share of trade or on Foreign Direct Investment. The study suggests that trade controls may be a signal of a reduced risk and a credible commitment that their goods not be diverted. Also, some countries have a facilitated licensing process for countries with effective controls on their trade in strategic items.

Several participants indicated that their export control systems have been or are being revised or established specifically with the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in mind.

All of the plenary and break-out group presentations will appear on the website www.state.gov/strategictrade in the near future.

4. **Additional comments**

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