

Information Note¹

Event	Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact (PoC) on UNSCR 1540
Organiser	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Date and Venue	10 April 2014, Vienna, Austria
Participants	<i>Representatives from:</i> Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), European Union (EU), 1540 Committee Group of Experts, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), OSCE.

1. Conference Objectives

- Discuss ways and means to further strengthen the role of the OSCE in assisting OSCE interested participating States in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in close collaboration with the 1540 Committee and UNODA;
- Exchange of views on national non-proliferation efforts and sharing of lessons learnt, including with regard to the development of “Best Practice Guides”;
- Coordinate non-proliferation activities bilaterally as well as regionally, and to seek new effective forms of co-operation of relevant non-proliferation efforts between the participating States, if applicable;
- Discuss the practice of developing national implementation action plans on resolution 1540 (2004);
- Identify participating States’ needs, in particular in connection to trainings and capacity building workshops;
- Discuss on-going initiatives, futures plans and agree on further activities of the OSCE Points of Contact network.

2. Background

The OSCE region has been very active with regard to regional and national implementation efforts of resolution 1540 (2004) including through a series of OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions, the establishment of a 1540 coordination mechanism within the Conflict Prevention

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.

Centre (CPC) of the OSCE Secretariat, as well as through numerous initiatives of its Participating States on national level. As part of these initiatives, in 2011, the OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) established the "OSCE Directory of Points of Contact (PoC) on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)". The directory is meant to be a complementary and voluntary tool to enhance cooperation and coordination among participating States and has the following purpose:

- (1) To facilitate information-sharing, promoting best practices as well as strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); and
- (2) To enhance capacity-building and to synchronize any activities in order to prevent the duplication of respective efforts, also by third parties.

As of March 2014, 51 of the 57 OSCE Participating States have nominated a 1540 PoC for this directory. This first meeting of the PoCs was hosted by the CPC of the OSCE Secretariat, under the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE, in co-operation with UNODA.

3. Highlights

Opening Statements were delivered by the Chairperson of the FSC, Ambassador Keith Azoopardi (Malta) and the OSCE Swiss Chairmanship. The meeting was chaired by the FSC's Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation issues.

The 1540 expert provided an overview of resolution 1540 (2004) and updated participants on the latest developments. He noted recent 1540-related developments in the OSCE region and called on the participants to consider further options to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the work of the Committee. Participating States shared their experiences in developing and implementing 1540 National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) and provided updates on other national implementation efforts as well as on upcoming events. OSCE, UNODA and the EU reported on their respective activities and programmes in support of States' implementation efforts.

Building on the experiences of OSCE with "network operations", a special panel was dedicated to OSCE activities which can be seen as complementary to 1540-related implementation efforts. This session included presentations of the OSCE's "Action against Terrorism Unit" (ATU), the OSCE's Border Security and Management Unit's National Focal Point Network as well as the "OSCE Communications Network".

With participation of 27 out of the 51 Participating States that have nominated a PoC, the meeting was an encouraging and promising starting point for further coordination activities within this network. Participants appreciated the gathering of this first meeting and took active part in the discussions. They also expressed the wish to have more regular meetings of this kind.

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