

Information Note¹

- Event:** Consultations among the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Government of Belarus to establish and co-ordinate further steps in development of a National Action Plan
- Organizers:** OSCE with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 26-29 March 2012
- Participants:** *States:* Belarus
Organizations: OSCE; UNODA – Vienna; 1540 Committee
Other Expertise: Verification, Education, Research and Training Centre (VERTIC)

1. Objectives of the workshop

- To exchange views on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 in Belarus for a better understanding the existing challenges and problems in this area, including gaps in implementation and the specific priorities of Belarus, and updating the matrix of Belarus as appropriate;
- Building on this exchange of views, to assist Belarus in drafting the text of an initial draft implementation plan;
- To provide additional assistance in the steps toward finalization of a draft plan; and
- To identify specific lessons learned for conducting further consultations with countries on their national action plans.

2. Background

The Government of Belarus informed the 1540 Committee by Note Verbal of 26 December 2011 that it intended to prepare a “roadmap” for its further implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the 1540 Committee. Subsequently, the OSCE issued invitations to the 1540 Committee experts and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) meet in Vienna with Belarusian officials to assist Belarus in its efforts to prepare a national action plan.

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.

Assisting a member State upon its request to develop a voluntary national action plan is endorsed in UNSC resolution 1977 (2011) and the Tenth Programme of Work of the 1540 Committee.

3. **Highlights**

- Belarus provided participants with a detailed draft “road map” for implementing resolution 1540 for discussion. The draft framework focuses on the export control and biological elements of the resolution, including a description of what measures they had in place prior to the resolution, what measures they have taken since the resolution was adopted, and what measures they intend to take. Meant to be a living document, Belarus will add elements regarding nuclear and chemical obligations at a later date, but will not delay submitting the framework to the 1540 Committee and the OSCE.
- The discussions focused on Belarusian measures regarding the biological, export control and border security obligations of resolution 1540, including potential opportunities for assistance.
- Participants agreed on several next steps in the process of dialogue regarding the development of the road map and implementation of the resolution.

4. **Additional comments**

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