

Information Note¹

- Event:** International Conference on the safe and secure Transport of radioactive Material: The Next Fifty Years – Creating a safe, secure and sustainable Framework
- Organizer:** International Atomic Energy Agency
- Venue and Date:** Vienna, Austria, 17-21 October 2011
- Participants:** Over 350 participants, including policy and decision-makers and experts from 73 States, representatives of the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and non-governmental organization and industry, including the International Air Traffic Association, the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS), the World Nuclear Association (WNA), the World Nuclear Transport Institute (WNTI) and some observers from industry. A 1540 Committee expert also participated.
Over 50 papers were presented by participants.

1. Objectives of a 1540 Committee expert participation

- To acquire a better understanding of the IAEA approach to harmonize complex safety and security requirements regarding the transport of nuclear and other radioactive materials;
- In particular, to obtain clarity on the Agency's approach about the interface between security and safety issues and the overlap of the control of weapons-related nuclear material and other radiological sources - an issue of relevance in the compilation of 1540 Committee Matrices;
- To raise awareness among the high-level participants of the nature of UNSC resolution 1540 and the particularly relevant operative paragraph 3 of the resolution on the security and protection of nuclear material, including during transport;
- To present a paper at a regional panel of the Conference that focused on Africa entitled: "UNSC Resolution 1540 and Transport of Nuclear Material: Challenges in Africa";
- To expand existing contacts with experts from international organizations, government and industry.

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.

2. Background

The Conference was designed to address the issues of the existing pattern and long-term development of the frameworks, regulations, policy guidelines, mechanisms and emergency plans of Member States and relevant international organizations for the safe and secure transport of radioactive materials. It builds on the findings of a series of conferences and symposia on nuclear safety and security that were organized by the IAEA during 2009 and 2010, some of which were attended by representatives of the 1540 Committee.

3. Highlights and discussion

The conference demonstrated that by 2011, on the 50th anniversary of the first IAEA regulations governing the safe transport of radioactive material, the IAEA security provisions were considered to be mature but many challenges needed to be addressed to create a safe, secure and sustainable framework for the next 50 years. Examples are:

- Avoidance of conflicting tendencies between the regulatory requirements of safety and security of the transport both globally and within Member States and harmonization of efforts and simultaneous application of regulations in the two areas;
- Minimizing the tendencies to deny shipments of radioactive materials at points of exit or entry, which might pose a proliferation risk due to misplacement or possible abandonment;
- Developing effective industry/government partnerships;
- Facilitating timely information on shipments for coastal states to ensure effective preparation and response in case of accidents;
- Addressing the special difficulties of some States and the need to enhance the capacity of developing countries, including looking into the regional dimension of the movement of radiological material.

In a panel focused on the Africa region, the 1540 Committee expert explained the relevance of implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 to the purpose of the conference and demonstrated with tables the extent of legislative and enforcement measures taken so far by African States for controlling nuclear materials in their territories.

4. Additional comments

The Findings of the Conference as summarized by the President are available as part of the full record of the proceedings, posted in the IAEA website as: www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/Announcements.asp?ConfID=38298.

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