

Information Note¹

Event:	International Symposium on Nuclear Security
Organizers by:	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with INTERPOL: European Police Office, Joint Research Center, European Commission; UN Counter-Terrorism Task Force; UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); World Customs Organization; World Institute for Nuclear Security; and World Nuclear Transport Institute.
Date & Venue:	30 March-3 April 2009; Vienna, Austria
Participants:	International organizations, research and industrial institutions in the nuclear field, governmental departments dedicated to nuclear energy and the safety and security of nuclear material, 1540 Committee Chairman and an expert

1. **Objectives**

- present resolution 1540 (2004) in relationship to other non-proliferation instruments and the status of its implementation;
- participate in various panels in order to foster greater understanding of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and encourage cooperation with the 1540 Committee by the participating organizations and States;
- engage in consultations with the IAEA Secretariat.

2. **Background**

The symposium took place in the context of international recognition that the threat of nuclear terrorism requires dedication and coordinated actions on the part of the global community.

3. **Highlights**

The symposium addressed the following themes, which were discussed in separate panels and reported to the plenary: (1) threat of nuclear terrorism and other criminal acts in the nuclear field; (2) international response and cooperation; (3) safety, security and safeguards interfaces; (4) securing materials and facilities; (5) unregistered and uncontrolled radioactive substances; (6) information sharing; (7) the role of industry; (8) and IAEA nuclear security programme.

The adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) was featured among six legal instruments put in place by the international community as a response to the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation and the illicit use of related material for terrorist purposes. The symposium stressed the complementary nature of these instruments and that national legal systems rooted in them should be comprehensive and consistent to serve as a solid basis of national implementation.

The symposium acknowledged the credibility of the reports that criminal and terrorist organizations have shown an interest in nuclear material and facilities. It was stressed that the threat was global since stolen substances can originate or be used anywhere in the world.

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.

It was also noted that the nuclear industry could make contributions to nuclear material security through investment in research and development; involvement of industrial entities in the security regime, improving their security awareness, their corporate culture and the sharing of good practices.

The participation of the 1540 Committee Chairman and of a 1540 Committee expert at a major IAEA symposium was the first of its kind and was a sign of growing cooperation with the Agency. During the symposium, the Chairman and expert held consultations with senior IAEA officials on strengthening cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

For the official document on the symposium's findings, please visit the [IAEA website](#).

4. Additional comments

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