

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

<b>Event:</b>	Joint country-specific activity to assist in the preparation of a national action plan as requested by Serbia
<b>Date and Venue:</b>	24 November 2011; Vienna, Austria
<b>Organisers:</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
<b>Participants:</b>	<i>State:</i> Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency) <i>International Organisations:</i> representatives from 1540 Committee Experts, OSCE, and UNODA (Vienna) <i>Other:</i> Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

### 1. Objectives

- Contribute to the development of a national action plan, which is part of an assistance request by the Republic of Serbia in its national report submitted to the 1540 Committee in June 2008.
- Discuss the development of the national action plan in association with an updated 1540 report that Serbia has prepared.
- Identify areas where 1540-related assistance has been provided to Serbia as well as areas where assistance might still be needed.

### 2. Background

The meeting built upon dialogues between Serbia and the 1540 Committee experts since 2008, including at the UNODA-organised regional workshop on resolution 1540 in Croatia in June 2010; the OSCE workshop on resolution 1540 in Vienna in January 2011, and the Regional Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, in Belgrade in November 2011. The meeting also took into account preparation by the OSCE 1540 Advisor of a template of an action plan and its translation into the Serbian language, useful to foster discussion among governmental departments on implementation of resolution 1540. Additionally, UNODA concluded an MOU with the OSCE in 2011 to support joint projects to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 by OSCE participating States.

The meeting served to contribute to responding to the assistance request contained in Serbia's 2008 report submitted to the 1540 Committee, and to facilitate further implementation of the resolution using the tool of a national action plan. The tool is described by resolutions 1977 (2011), and its predecessor 1810 (2008), in which the Security Council encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.

With reference to the role of national action plans as a tool of technical assistance for implementation, the Security Council, in resolution 1977 (2011), also urges the 1540 Committee to strengthen its role in that regard, in particular in matching offers and requests

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

for assistance, through such means as visits to States, assistance templates, action plans or other information submitted to the 1540 Committee.

### **3. Highlights**

Overall the meeting resulted in the provision of guidance that could assist Serbia in its preparation of a national action plan. After an initial presentation by officials from Serbia of updates on implementation efforts since its June 2008 report to the 1540 Committee, the meeting took the form of interactive discussion to compile Serbia country-specific information and effective practices and experiences into the draft template of an action plan. The 1540 Committee matrix was also used as a reference with information on efforts and measures Serbia has taken to meet the requirements of resolution 1540; the matrix would be updated in due course with the new information.

During the course of the meeting, participants discussed elements of an action plan that Serbia could consider when preparing its plan to further implement resolution 1540. In summary these elements included the following, to which Serbia provided specific national information as available during the meeting or would seek to obtain after the meeting when discussing the plan among relevant government departments:

- priorities and actions for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540;
- the governmental and other entities responsible for implementing requirements, including inter-departmental committees or processes to facilitate exchange of information as necessary to implement the resolution;
- allocation of resources, both from within the country and externally as assistance, that may be needed to implement requirements;
- mechanisms to monitor implementation of the action plan itself.

These elements and the overall process may be useful for other States which are considering to prepare an action plan for submission to the 1540 Committee, or to arrange a country visit that also discusses similar elements to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540, including with assistance as appropriate.

### **4. Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).