

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

- Event:** *Biological risk management and the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)*
- Organizers:** American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy (CSTSP) (US)
- Date and venue:** 18 October 2013, Washington, DC
- Participants:** *States:* United States of America (Department of Defense; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Homeland Security; Department of State; Environmental Protection Agency; FBI; USAID)
- International organizations:* 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry, Academia, and Other Entities:* AAAS (US); Asan Institute for Policy Studies (ROK); Association of Public Health Laboratories (US); George Mason University (US); Harvard University (US); Homeland Security Institute (US); International Council for the Life Sciences (US); Leidos, Inc (US); National Academies of Sciences (US); National Defense University (US); NBC Industry Group (US); Northrop Grumman Corporation (US).

### 1. **Meeting objectives**

Since 2006, the Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy (CSTSP) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has held monthly dialogues with the Washington, DC biosecurity community on a wide range of topics addressing complex national and international security policy issues by drawing on the multidisciplinary expertise of Center staff and of natural and social scientists, engineers, science- and security-policy experts, and security professionals. For a list of past events see: <http://www.aaas.org/cstsp/events/>

### 2. **Background**

AAAS is one of the largest general scientific societies in the world and publisher of the international scientific journal *Science*. It is a non-governmental organization that has several different programs that serve the scientific community worldwide in the areas of international activities, science and policy, science education, and science standards. The AAAS program on science and security policy addresses complex national and international security issues through scientific engagement in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia; dialogues between the scientific and security communities in the United States; and assessments of emerging technologies. More information about the AAAS/CSTSP work is available at: <http://www.aaas.org/cstsp/programs/>

CSTSP issue areas include international arms control and nonproliferation, laboratory or facility safety and security, research ethics, cooperative bio-engagement, and domestic biosecurity issues. Specific topics include nuclear, biological, chemical, cyber, space, energy, and environmental security.

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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 organizers or participants in the event.

### 3. **Highlights**

Participants discussed the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) in closing gaps in the non-proliferation regime by covering synergistically nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and complementing and strengthening the growing number of treaties, conventions and protocols that address WMD proliferation, to reduce the vulnerability of many legitimate activities to misuse by terrorists and would-be criminals.

Of particular interest to participants, were the recent developments: 1) in strengthening the 1540 Committee's cooperation with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which was illustrated by the BWC Chair's invitation to the committee to participate in the 2013-2015 intersessional process (both Meetings of Experts and Meetings of States Parties); 2) the first plenary presentation on behalf of the 1540 Committee at the BWC Meeting of Experts this year; and 3) the experts participation in the BWC Regional Workshops, which were organized by UNODA-Geneva under the auspices of the European Union BWC Action. In addition, participants expressed interest in the submissions this year of points of contacts for assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organization for Animal Health (OIE), which would allow the committee for the first time to share the requests for assistance and enhance implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the biodefense area.

The 1540 Committee expert, presented on *Biological Risk Management and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540*, addressing broad topics such as: the legally binding obligations on all States under resolution 1540 (2004); Security Council definitions for the purpose of resolution 1540 (2004); anti-terrorism provisions as reflected in the resolution's text and national reports; the 1540 Committee architecture and work process; reporting to the 1540 Committee and the committee's matchmaking role; the limited number of outreach events focusing on the biological weapons (BW) and their means of delivery-specific prohibitions and implementation/enforcement of appropriate controls over BW-related materials since the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004); and the lack of educational resources on the obligations set forth and the relevance of resolution 1540 (2004) among those listed on the UNODA's website which promotes disarmament and non-proliferation education [the website was established pursuant to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124), "*United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education*" (<http://www.un.org/disarmament/education>)].

### 4. **Additional comments**

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