

Information Note¹

- Event:** Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG) meeting
- Organizers:** United States of America in Presidency of the G-8
- Date and Venue:** 24-25 January 2012, Washington DC, USA
- Participants:** *States:* Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States
- Other:* European Union
- International organizations and other international entities:* Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), 1540 Committee member and two 1540 Committee experts

1. Objectives of the workshop

- Work directly with the more than twenty states of the GPWG and other invited participants on match-making using the consolidated list of assistance requests, which the 1540 Committee has approved for sharing with the GPWG, including, as requested by the organizers; by briefing the GPWG using summaries of each assistance request and possible responses by the GPWG; and by making a presentation, in coordination with UNODA, on planned outreach activities and an overview of resources of the Global Disarmament Trust Fund;
- Discuss actions taken, trends in assistance, and exchange lessons learned; and,
- Discuss visits to states, voluntary national action plans, and other new tools and practices for facilitating assistance.

2. Background

At the Deauville G8 Summit, in May 2011, Heads of State and Government decided to renew the Global Partnership beyond 2012 and invited “*all States to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 and we reiterate our support to the 1540 Committee in the discharge of its mandate*” (paragraph 14). Moreover, the G8 *Global Partnership Assessment and Options for Future Programming* document (Deauville, May 2011) identifies four priorities for the future of the Partnership, including facilitation of resolution 1540.

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.

The 24-25 January 2012 GPWG meeting was the first one held under the current U.S. Presidency of the G-8. Subsequent GPWG meetings are planned on 13-14 March 2012, 17-18 May 2012, in September 2012 and in October 2012. The Non-paper on U.S. Priorities in 2012 for the GPWG circulated in advance of the meeting mentions three primary areas on which the U.S. aims to focus its efforts in 2012: improving the coordination of project planning; expansion of the Global Partnership to more members; and, achieving greater clarity on funding.

In its letter to the U.S. G-8 Presidency, the 1540 Committee refers to the consolidated list of assistance requests approved by the Committee and shared with the G-8 partners, mentioning it would welcome a substantive and pro-active dialogue with the G-8 partners on this issue.

3. **Highlights**

- Representatives of UK, Poland, Finland, the Russian Federation, Norway, and the United States shared information on their efforts to fulfill Global Partnership objectives.
- In a first for the GPWG, a number of international organizations shared information on their activities that might relate to Global Partnership objectives.
- The European Union, UNICRI and German BAFA delivered several presentations on the matter of EU CBRN Centers of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE) and on the role played by the EU on export control, highlighting progress made and the way forward, including a presentation of the EU CBRN CoE web portal (<http://cbrn-coe.jrc.ec.europa.eu>).
- A break-out session on biosecurity issues took place to discuss possible next steps by the GPWG on the issue.

4. **Bilateral consultations**

1540 Committee experts had informal meetings with representatives of several GPWG States and international organizations related to requests for assistance submitted to the 1540 Committee.

5. **Additional comments**

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