

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

<b>Event</b>	1540 Peer review conducted by Croatia and Poland (visit to Croatia)
<b>Organisers</b>	The Governments of Croatia and Poland with the support of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
<b>Date and Venue</b>	17 – 19 June 2013, Zagreb, Croatia
<b>Participants</b>	<i>Croatia:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Border Police Directorate, Customs Administration, Security and Intelligence Agency, State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety, and State Office for the Trade Policy <i>Poland:</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transportation, Border Guards, Customs Service, Police <i>UN:</i> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and 1540 Committee group of experts

### **Objectives for experts' participation**

- Participate as observers, with a view to learn lessons from this innovative approach, and provide feedback to the 1540 Committee.
- Facilitate discussions, as appropriate, at the invitation of the participating Member States.
- Inform the participants, as appropriate, about 1540-related issues.

### **Background**

Croatia and Poland have undertaken a number of remarkable initiatives aimed at promoting the objectives of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In this spirit, the two States have now joined forces to embark on an innovative approach to further advance the implementation of this resolution: a Peer Review involving expert discussions and the exchange of visits to both capitals.

In a joint letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee, Croatia and Poland introduced the peer review initiative as a new concept *“that could improve understanding of the importance of resolution 1540 among the UN Member States. This new approach should serve us to move beyond current implementation activities and simple awareness raising toward country specific dialogue and stronger mutual cooperation”* in implementing the resolution.

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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.

The initial idea to organise such a peer review was first discussed by Croatia, Poland and UNODA at a regional 1540 workshop held in Warsaw in July 2012. The two States agreed to conduct an extensive and in-depth dialogue and to share practical experiences and effective practices in implementing the resolution, in a non-intrusive manner. For this purpose, both States decided to facilitate the exchange of experiences between their two delegations consisting of representatives and experts from different ministries and agencies who are dealing with the practical implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in their day-to-day operations.

This peer review initiative was designed as a process, consisting of preparatory meetings, and, in its main part, visits by delegations to the two countries. The visit to Zagreb, the Croatian capital, was the first segment of this peer review process.

As host country and visiting delegation, Croatia and Poland are the main stakeholders of the peer-review. The 1540 Committee experts were invited to participate as observers; UNODA participated in the planning, organization and conduct of the event.

The programme for this first leg of the peer review process was developed by the host country in liaison with Poland, UNODA and the 1540 Committee experts, and included a mix of plenary sessions in Zagreb, an on-site visit including practical exercises at the port of Rijeka, as well as discussions on a case scenario in small groups.

### **Highlights**

Both delegations highlighted the significance of the peer review to building a closer partnership between the two countries, and as a means to identify effective practices regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). They also considered the peer review as an effective practice in its own right.

After a tour-de-table, which allowed all participants to get acquainted with their counterparts, the 1540 experts provided a short introduction of resolution 1540 (2004). This was followed by an introduction of the background and the underlying principles guiding the conduct of the peer review, as they had been agreed by both delegations on occasion of a preparatory meeting:

- The exercise is designed as a set of discussions between experts to exchange experiences and examine the different implementation practices.
- The peer review is “owned” by the participating States.
- The main purpose is the exchange of practices, in the framework of a voluntary dialogue between equal partners; it is based on the principles of trust, openness and cooperation. As such, the peer review would not be an “audit”.

An objective stated by the two delegations is to move beyond the traditional tools of 1540-implementation and to assist the 1540 Committee in its task to identify effective implementation practices in accordance with operative paragraph 12 (op 12) of resolution 1977 (2011). After each leg of the peer review, the host will prepare an intermediary report, which will be shared with the visiting delegation. A joint report will be prepared after both visits have been conducted.

The main part of the first plenary session was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of several aspects of Croatian implementation practices of resolution 1540 (2004), including the recently adopted Croatian National Strategy and Action Plan for Non-proliferation, the role of different agencies and Croatian inter-agency cooperation, or measures in the areas of border and export controls as well as in the area of physical protection of nuclear and radiological materials. The Polish side identified a lot of similarities with its national implementation practices and took great interest in the practical or technical implementation of various issues.

The second day was devoted to an on-site visit to the port of Rijeka, the biggest Croatian port for the handling of cargo. The visit was organized by the local Customs Office (Rijeka Luka) and included: an introduction into the tasks and mandates of the Customs office; visits to the cargo and container terminals including its control sections; demonstrations of the risk analysis systems and document checks; as well as a demonstration of the procedures and the use of equipment for detecting radiological substances.

Adding to the impressions gained at the on-site visit, the third day started with the presentation of a real export case scenario, which Croatian authorities had recently encountered. The case provided valuable insights into the practical implementation and enforcement of the legal framework and triggered a lively debate between the two delegations on various issues.

For the final session, the 1540 Committee experts facilitated a discussion on the basis of a short mock case scenario involving unspecific information on the imminent transit (via road) of CBRN material for a suspected terrorist use. Both delegations were given 30 minutes to discuss the case first among themselves and were then asked to present how they would respond to the scenario in question. The exercise was useful to illustrate both States' response in more practical terms and to further identify commonalities, differences but also common challenges.

Concluding this first segment of the peer review, both delegations were able to already identify a few practices that could be considered as particularly effective for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and which should be further explored during the second segment of the peer review.

### **Additional comments**

Pictures of the peer review visit to Croatia can be found at the 1540 committee website (<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/other-multimedia.shtml>). Information on the peer review has also been made available by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia (<http://www.mvep.hr/en/info-servis/press-releases/,14955.html>) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland ([http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/foreign\\_policy/security\\_policy/tytul\\_strony](http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/foreign_policy/security_policy/tytul_strony)).

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