

Information Note¹

Event	16 th Security and Strategic Trade Management Academy
Organiser	Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) at the University of Georgia
Date and Venue	28-29 March 2013, Athens, Georgia, U.S.A.
Participants	Government officials from Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Malaysia, Moldova, Philippines, Turkey, South Africa, Turkmenistan, Vietnam and the U.S.A.

1. Conference Objectives

To prepare government officials from around the world for the challenges of developing, implementing and enforcing policies and procedures that fulfill national obligations under UNSCR 1540 (2004), in particular in the area of export controls or strategic trade management.

2. Background

The Security & Strategic Trade Management Academy or SSTMA is a two-week comprehensive training on regulating WMD-relevant dual-use technologies. This biannual, practitioner-orientated academy is designed to help government officials and industry representatives understand the international proliferation and threat environment. The course is also intended to support States in training their core staff responsible for reporting to the 1540 Committee. Since 2006, over 250 government officials from 40 countries attended the course (for more information: <http://cits.uga.edu/post/academy>). The 16th Academy session was attended by 22 participants from 10 countries.

3. Highlights

Together with the U.S. State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation Programs, Mr. Simon Limage, the U.S. Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, Amb. Bonnie Jenkins, as well as teaching staff of the CITS, the expert contributed to the Panel on "Promoting Strategic Trade Control Cooperation among Nonproliferators".

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.

The objective of the presentation of the expert was to give the participants – many of them involved in their own country’s implementation efforts – recommendations and insights related to implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) from a more practical or technical point of view. Therefore, the presentation went into detail on explaining the role of the 1540 Committee, the area of national reporting, the concept of the “1540 Matrix”, the National Implementation Action Plans, visits to States (at their invitation), as well as the clearinghouse function for assistance.

In his remarks, Deputy Assistant Secretary Limage provided an overview of the cooperation and assistance programmes of the *U.S. State Department’s Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation (ISN)* and how these programmes contribute to strengthening international non-proliferation efforts as well as multilateral cooperation in the area of strategic trade controls (his remarks can be found here: <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/rls/rm/2013/206800.htm>).

Amb. Jenkins gave an account of the activities of the *G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Material of Mass Destruction* under US Chairmanship in 2012, including on questions such as membership, the workings of the sub-working groups and overall achievements. She also mentioned the increased coordination between the G-8 Global Partnership and the 1540 Committee.

The Q&A-session and discussion focused on the question why countries should establish strategic trade control or management systems, especially if they are not suppliers of related items. It was also asked where participants saw the major challenges for this area in the next decade (suggestions ranged from: managing trade in an even-more globalised trade environment, lack of human and financial resources for effective controls, or the need to establish export control systems for non-exporting States).

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