

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) for South-East Asian States
- Organizers:** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in cooperation with the Government of Viet Nam; funded by the European Union and the Governments of New Zealand, Norway and the United States
- Date and Venue:** 28 September – 1 October 2010, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Participants:** *States:* Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam in the region and from Japan, New Zealand, Norway, and the United States
Organizations: European Union (including BAFA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UNODA RCPDAP, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – WCO Container Program, UNICRI, 1267 Committee Monitoring team, CARICOM, 1540 Committee Members and experts
Other expertise: VERTIC, CISTEC, CSCAP, Stimson Center, CITS, SIPRI, and University of Wollongong (Australia)

1. Objectives

The objective of the workshop was to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The workshop focused primarily on the main elements of border and export controls and was specifically tailored for border, customs and regulatory officials from the participating Member States. It encouraged experience-sharing in related areas amongst the participating Member States and also the identification of specific capacity-building measures which are responsive to regional and specific national requirements. Pertinent information on lessons learned based on the activities of the 1540 Committee were also shared.

The workshop assisted participants to identify as a part of their national efforts specific forms of technical assistance that they might require in implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to enhance cooperation with the 1540 Committee, international organizations and within the region in obtaining of such assistance. The workshop served as a platform for raising awareness of available offers or programmes of technical assistance, in particular through the effective use of the 1540 Committee assistance template.

2. Background

The workshop was the seventh and last in a series of regional workshops held in the framework of European Council Joint Action 2008/368/CFSP of 14 May 2008 in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

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.

3. **Highlights**

In the closing session, the representative of the 1540 Committee Mr Enrique Ochoa (Mexico) highlighted the following:

- The crucial role of strategic trade controls and border management mechanisms to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- The strength of the political commitment in the region to the objectives of resolution 1540 (2004);
- Existing challenges, including the massive volume of trade, the geography of long, difficult maritime and land borders, with the risk of illicit transit or transshipment of related materials;

He also recalled that during the workshop:

- Steps were discussed by delegates to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004):
 - Expand efforts in industry, academic and public outreach;
 - Increased the use of seminars, training courses and the internet to reach relevant stakeholders;
 - Involve parliamentarians and officials from all relevant agencies;
- Companies were encouraged to have internal compliance programs to reduce the burden to both industry and the government in implementing effective trade controls, and many discussed the importance of engaging industry in developing regulations;
- Many delegations credited the development of an active inter-agency structure as key;
- The possibility to have resolution 1540 (2004) at the agenda of ASEAN meetings was discussed;
- Several delegations suggested that ASEAN States might adopt common control lists of dual-use items, as had been done by the member States of the European Union and elsewhere;
- Several states and international organizations outside of the region stand ready to offer technical assistance, funding, human resources, and equipments to partners in the region. In particular, delegations discussed some of the steps taken to make national measures and international cooperation sustainable, such as through the development of local companies for maintenance of border detection equipment, train-the-trainer programs, and incorporation of strategic trade controls into the work programs of various agencies.

4. **Bilateral consultations**

Bilateral consultations were held between participating ASEAN States and 1540 Committee Members and experts, focusing on next steps of implementation and, as appropriate, identifying areas of cooperation, including assistance, to further improve implementation. Various issues and ways forward expressed by States were discussed.

5. **Additional comments**

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