

Information Note¹

- Event:** **Table-Top Exercise on the Preparedness of States Parties to Prevent Terrorist Attacks Involving Chemicals**
- Organizers:** Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - Office of Special Projects
- Date and Venue:** Warsaw, Poland 22 and 23 November 2010
- Participants:** *Representatives* from States Parties (list of participants attached).
International *organizations* relevant to 1540: Organization of American States (OAS), European Commission, Europol, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

1. Objectives

- Increase understanding on prevention measures to be taken by CWC States Parties on accounting for and securing production, deposit, use and transport of toxic chemicals, as well as nuclear materials and biological agents, which can be used for the production of weapons of mass destruction and other requirements of resolution 1540 (2004);
- Present the cooperative approach of the 1540 Committee with States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), identifying *further steps* to be taken in the national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the role of the 1540 Committee in facilitating assistance matching requests and offers, including in assisting States in formulating their requests for equipment and training using, as appropriate, the assistance template;
- Improve cooperation with the OPCW following up the visit of the 1540 Committee Chairman and experts to The Hague, the recent meeting between the new Director General of the OPCW and the Chairman of the Committee, and in light of the imminent Conference in Vienna on cooperation with IGOs; and
- Dialogue with Polish Authorities regarding the matrix and their further national legislation updates, as well as the note verbale offering assistance, recently presented to the 1540 Committee.

2. Background

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 Table-Top Exercise on the Preparedness of States Parties to Prevent Terrorist Attacks Involving Chemicals was the first event following the meeting between Ambassador Heller and OPCW Secretary-General Üzümcü, and participation to the event represented a step for future closer cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW.

Prevention and response to malicious releases of toxic chemicals by terrorists not only are in line with the recommendations of the Second CWC Review Conference but also they contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), stressing the importance of the adoption of measures to account for and secure the production, deposit, use and transport of WMD related materials and the importance of the establishment of an interagency mechanism, as well as closer cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

3. **Overview**

The event comprised the Table Top Exercise and, in parallel four thematic workshops.

The scenario of the exercise was a “terrorist attack on chlorine installation in Plainland” and its specific focus was on the close cooperation, information exchanges and knowledge transfer among the actors involved in the incident response – actors that do not always routinely work together.

In the view of the expert, the exercise represented also a good opportunity for sharing experience for enhancing the chemical security culture in participating States Parties in order to assist national stakeholders in preventing the risks associated with accidental or deliberate releases of toxic chemicals. Indeed, the exercise focused on response actions, needs for communication, knowledge transfer, assistance, political decisions, potential improvements in awareness and prevention.

4. **Additional notes**

The 1540 Committee expert underlined the complementarity of resolution 1540 (2004) with international treaties and conventions, presenting, in particular, the requirement that the resolution has in common with the Chemical Weapons Convention and the additional measures that are to be taken at domestic and international level over WMD related materials. In addition, the expert noted the importance of the event for focusing on the legislative and administrative framework that constitutes the basis of synergic cooperation among national implementing bodies.

5. **Bilateral consultation**

The discussion addressed new amendments to the national legislative framework in light of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) as well as assistance programmes that Poland can provide to States that need assistance.

6. **Additional comments**

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