

Information Note¹

Event: National Roundtable Webinar Series to Strengthen the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Mongolia

Organizer(s): UNODA, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) in cooperation with the Government of Mongolia and with financial support of the European Union and the United States.

Date and Venue: 18-20 May 2021, via online platform.

Background

- UNSC resolution 2325 (2016) re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively resolution 1540 (2004) and called upon all States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of that resolution. It also encouraged States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the Committee;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) also urges the Committee to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance. Resolution 2325 (2016) also encouraged the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests.
- By means of a letter dated 6 May 2020, the Government of Mongolia requested support on drafting the list of dual-use items and monitoring. In an additional assistance request dated 20 August 2020, the Government of Mongolia requested financial and technical support on establishing a third-grade laboratory on Biosecurity.
- On 6 May 2021, Dr Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of UNRCPD, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee, inviting representatives of the Group of Experts to participate in a national roundtable webinar series to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Mongolia, to be held from 18-20 May 2021. The objectives of this webinar series were to improve the understanding of Mongolia's national stakeholders of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004); to review an existing draft 1540

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.

National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) and finalize a new version; and to identify further assistance.

Highlights and Overview:

The event was officially opened by statement by Mr Tugsochir Jantsan, Secretary General of the National Counter Terrorism Council of Mongolia. He informed the participants that Mongolia was working on drafting laws and regulations, as well as drafting a national action plan to actively and effectively implement UNSCR 1540. He also informed the participants that Mongolia had designated its point of contact in 2020 and was working with the 1540 Committee on its assistance requests as well as developing a draft national action plan, which was a significant step to fulfil Mongolia's international responsibilities.

Mr. Ioan Tudor, Chief of WMD Branch, UNODA (also on behalf of UNRCPD) delivered a statement. He informed the participants that in 2018, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched the Agenda for Disarmament in the 21st Century entitled "Securing Our Common Future", which sought to address the dangers posed by all weapons in a deteriorating global security environment. The first pillar of the Agenda focused on the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and was directly linked to the work being done under the auspices of resolution 1540 (2004). He reaffirmed UNODA's commitment to provide the continued support to Mongolia in facilitating their access to the necessary information and expertise in the UN system and other partner international and regional organizations.

Mr. Robin Mossinkoff, Chief of the FSC Support Unit, Conflict Prevention Center, OSCE Secretariat sent a recorded video message to the webinar. In the statement, he noted that the resolution 1540 (2004) was an important tool in global non-proliferation efforts and its relevance remained as strong as it was in 2004. The FSC Support Unit had been actively facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since 2011 as part of an extra-budgetary efforts to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region.

Mr. Todd Perry, Special Coordinator for UNSCR 1540 of the Bureau of Security and Non-Proliferation, US Department of State also delivered a statement at the opening session. In his statement, he commended Mongolia's efforts to avail itself not only of the support from the 1540 committee in expertise and planning, but also the wide range of international organizations, including regional organization such as UNRCPD and functional organizations such as the World Customs Organization. Ms. Lauren Hovis, Economic officer from the US embassy in Mongolia also made short remarks in this session. She noted that Mongolia was a strategic partner of the United States and they valued Mongolia's implementation and adoption of effective and appropriate laws that prohibited non-state actors from trafficking materials into Mongolia and the know-how needed to manufacture WMDs. The United States was committed to encouraging world-wide implementation of UNSCR 1540 obligations.

In the recorded video statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Marjolijn van Deelen, EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, She emphasized that the European Union and its Member States firmly believed that UNSCR1540 remained a central pillar of the international non-proliferation architecture, insofar as countering proliferation to non-state

actors is concerned. The EU Council Decision that had contributed to the funding of this project provided for a budget of 2.7 million EUR for events worldwide. The EU aimed at supporting cooperation and capacity-building at both national and regional levels.

Mr Jonathan Brewer, Coordinator of the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee delivered a Committee-approved message on behalf of the Committee. In the statement, he described the basic obligations of States under the resolution, the Comprehensive Review including its four themes, the matrix updating process and the upcoming Open Consultations.

In the following sessions and discussions, 1540 Committee experts delivered presentations on UNSCR 1540 implementation in Mongolia, Voluntary National Action Plans, and Export Controls in UNSCR 1540 context. The WCO expert gave a presentation on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme.

Representatives from Mongolia's relevant national authorities gave presentations and updates on Mongolia's implementation status in nuclear, chemical and biological fields, as well as Mongolia's current strategic trade control legislation and enforcement measures.

The participants also discussed and drafted Mongolia's national action plan.

Additional Comments

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