

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

- Event:** Online Training Course on the International Legal Framework against Biological Terrorism
- Organizer:** UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Date and Venue:** 29 September 2020, Virtual Meeting

### Background

- On 15 July 2020, Mr Masood Karimipour, the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a representative of the Group of Experts to deliver a ten-minute presentation on *The contribution of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to prohibiting proliferation of biological weapons by non-State actors*. The Training Course took place virtually (via the Webex platform) on 29 September 2020.
- According to the organisers, the objective of the online training course was to increase Member States' awareness and understanding of the international legal framework against biological terrorism, and to promote its effective implementation.

### Overview

The two-hour virtual meeting consisted of opening remarks by the Chief of UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch followed by seven presentations from speakers from international and regional organisations, as well as civil society, including the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, INTERPOL, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch, International Maritime Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization and Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit.

The 1540 Expert presented on the contribution of resolution 1540 (2004) to prohibiting proliferation of biological weapons by non-State actors. After introducing resolution 1540 (2004), the Expert discussed the obligations on UN Member States to implement the prohibitions in Operative Paragraph (OP) 2, with a particular focus on those related to biological weapons. He described the obligation to implement measures to account for and secure the production, use, storage and transport of biological weapons-related materials, as well as physical protection

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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.

measures, under OPs 3(a)-(b), with a particular focus on biosecurity measures. The Expert also described Member States' obligation to implement measures for inter alia border control and law enforcement efforts related to illicit trafficking and a number of export control measures including for export, transit, trans-shipment, re-export and end-user controls.

The presentations were followed by a short question and answer session.

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)