

**Summary report on the
Meeting of International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations on
Cooperation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540
15-16 December 2010
Vienna (Austria)
Briefing by the Coordinator of the Working group on Cooperation with
International Organizations
at the 1540 Committee meeting on 20 December 2010**

1. A Meeting of 25 International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations on Cooperation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 took place in Vienna from 15 -16 December 2010 and was hosted by Austria as well as co-organized with UNODA. The 1540 Committee Chairman and representatives of Austria, Japan and the United States as coordinators of the Committee's working groups and a representative of Mexico in the Committee as well as three 1540 Committee's experts actively participated in this meeting through making presentations, moderating its sessions and round table discussions. All Members of the Security Council as well as the newly elected Members of the Council have been invited to participate as observers.

2. At the outset I would like to thank all the participants from the 25 IROs for their active engagement and constructive contributions and suggestions which made this Meeting a success. I would also like to thank Ambassador Heller (Mexico) as the 1540 Chairman as well as my fellow Committee Members Mrs. Joy Fasoli (United States of America), Mr. Tomoaki Ishigaki (Japan) and Mr. Enrique Ochoa (Mexico) for their

important contributions during this Meeting. My words of gratitude also go to the 1540 group of experts, particularly to Mr. Richard Cupitt, Mr. Petr Litavrin and Mr. Berhan Andemicael who have much contributed to the substantive preparation of this Meeting. Last but not least my sincere appreciation and thanks go to the team of UNODA, in particular to Mr. Nikita Smidovich and Mr. Franz Kolar, who have co-organized this Meeting in a very professional way.

3. The Vienna Meeting of International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations (IROs) was characterized by constructive and active engagement by all participants in various discussion formats on cooperation in promoting the implementation of SC resolution 1540. I believe that the participants of all 25 international, regional and sub-regional organizations present at the Meeting appreciated this unique opportunity for an open, frank and fruitful exchange of views.

4. I had the general impression that it was an important and useful Meeting. I noted that all IROs undertake various activities relevant to SC resolution 1540. I believe there were many fruitful opportunities to establish personal contacts among participants.

5. The contribution and cooperation of both, international and regional and sub-regional organizations is key. By putting the specialized expertise of international organizations into a regional context, real benefits for Member States can be achieved. Hence maximizing the complementarities between the specialized expertise of some international organizations and the mandates of other regional organizations seems to be important.

6. Regional organizations have a crucial role in the implementation of SC resolution 1540 especially in capacity building, as they have a comparative advantage through their knowledge of regional specificities. I realized that IROs could be of great assistance to the 1540 Committee by indentifying gaps and improving efficiency. In this context I would like to mention for illustrative purposes a few suggestions made by IROs during the round table discussions among regional and sub-regional organizations:

- IROs should consult with the 1540 Committee in the design phase of a 1540-related project as a prerequisite for funding. The Committee could then also act as a liaison point for other relevant IROs which might be interested to contribute to that project;
- awareness raising among some Member States about the requirements of SC Resolution 1540 was still necessary to ensure sustainable capacity building efforts;
- it is essential for the Committee to identify within a Member State's government the actual point of contact/implementing entity for SC Resolution 1540. Often the Prime Minister's Office or ministries other than the Foreign Ministry could be the national implementing authority;
- the Committee may consider a follow-up mechanism regarding Member States' efforts to implement SR Res.1540.

7. During the round table discussion among international and specialized organizations many proposals were made. I mention the following ones as examples:

- Cooperation between international and regional organizations was important, particularly in areas of national reporting, including the content of the reports especially with reference to legislative activities;
- The value and importance of standards, regulations and best practices of international organizations in promoting implementation of SC Resolution 1540 was emphasized with a view to sharing among these organizations such standards and best practices;
- The challenges of providing legislative assistance and how to coordinate this was also mentioned.

8. Attention was also drawn at the Meeting to the need for sustaining the 1540 implementation process and the possible role of IROs to meet this challenge. From the discussions during the Meeting I identified, in particular, the following areas, where further cooperation could be pursued:

- Capacity-building;
- Legislative assistance;
- Preparation of guidelines and standards;
- Identification of best practices.

9. There was also a general recognition of the importance of information sharing. I also sensed that there was a general desire and expectation for an improved information exchange and cooperation among the organizations and with the Committee. In this context the discussions of the round table on information exchange, in which all participants took

part, were also very productive. Highlights of this round table discussion include the following:

- It was acknowledged that information exchange has many facets.
- It was mentioned that the main purpose of information exchange is to avoid overlaps.
- Some participants stressed the need for more frequent and structures exchange of “soft” i.e. non-sensitive information among IROs.
- Many useful suggestions were made on how to better facilitate information exchange, while respecting the rules of confidentiality of IROs and underlining the central role of states in sharing information among themselves. The establishment of 1540 focal points in all Member States was stressed as an important contribution to help information exchange in this respect.
- Informal ways of sharing information e.g. during meetings similar to the Vienna Meeting was also proposed as an additional way of information exchange.
- The information needed by the 1540 Committee was outlined by a Committee’s representative by referring to a 1540 Matrix (of which one was distributed as an example).

10. I sensed that the meeting was beneficial for the participants. In particular, I had the impression that the meeting helped participants to more clearly identify relevant areas in which their respective organizations can make concrete contributions to the implementation of SC resolution 1540. The identification of 1540 relevant working areas in the respective organizations would be the groundwork for creating greater synergies with other organizations and the 1540 Committee.

11. In this context I suggested a first small step by taking up the proposal suggesting that each of the participating organization prepare a one-page-paper outlining the types of information relevant to SC Resolution 1540 that is already available within each respective organization and that could be shared with other participants.

12. During the Meeting the helpful role of NGOs in implementing resolution 1540 particularly in the regional context was mentioned. At the margins of the Meeting the World Institute for Nuclear Security organized a side event where it outlined its work.

13. Participants also voiced their expressions of support for follow-up activities, for example, through similar meetings like this Vienna Meeting.

14. I informed the Meeting's participants about UNODA's intention, to continue to maintain the current Meeting Website. I believe that this website could be a useful tool for participants to post information relevant to SC Resolution 1540 and make it available among all participants. This would be a very pragmatic way of following up on this Meeting by exchanging relevant 1540 related information on the various issues discussed.

15. During the closing session on 16 December, Austria as the host country announced its readiness to assist the process of cooperation in the future for example by hosting similar meetings.

16. To sum up I believe that this meeting was unique, successful and important:

- **unique** because for the first time participants of 25 IROs met together to discuss cooperation in promoting implementation of resolution 1540,
- **successful** because the participants had a rich exchange of views with many good ideas and useful suggestions on how to enhance cooperation among international, regional and sub-regional organisations and
- **important** because it could be the beginning of a sustained process of enhanced cooperation between IROs and the 1540 Committee.