

Information Note¹

Event:	Country visit at the invitation of the Government of Albania
Date and Venue:	30 January – 1 February 2012; Tirana, Albania
Participants:	Government officials of Albania from a range of ministries and departments, National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 1540 Committee Member and 1540 Committee Experts

1. Objectives for participation

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) and its requirements among relevant government departments in Albania participating in the mission;
- Using the 1540 Matrix, note areas where implementation has already occurred and identify areas where further implementation could take place;
- Facilitate Albania's continuing implementation of resolution 1540, including identification of effective practices as noted in resolution 1977 (2011) and potential assistance needs;
- Conduct consultations with government departments in Albania for in-depth examination of their implementation efforts, and in preparation, to prepare questions to guide dialogue;
- Identify possible assistance needs in addition to those made in 2004 and explore options for additional assistance offers for further implementation;
- Consider drafting an implementation plan taking into account discussion and developments during the mission, and future assistance considerations.

2. Background

The 1540 Committee was invited to a country visit to Albania to facilitate its continuing implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In particular, the visit was to take stock of the progress made so far by Albania on its implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), as well as to identify areas where further action may be needed.

The country visit derives from and builds on dialogues between the 1540 Committee and Albania including from outreach activities such as the UNODA-organised regional workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), June 2010, in Split, Croatia; and the OSCE workshop on resolution 1540 (2004), January 2011, in Vienna, Austria. UNODA provided support and funding as needed.

3. Highlights

During the visit, the 1540 Committee and experts met with officials and experts from different Albanian institutions and agencies that are involved and responsible with the implementation of various aspects of resolution 1540 (2004).

The programme comprised three days. The first day was a plenary style meeting with officials from the range of government departments involved in implementing various requirements of the resolution. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and AKSHE (State export control authority, Ministry of Defence) and the 1540 Committee Member made opening remarks. The 1540 Committee experts made presentations on resolution 1540, the role of the 1540 Committee and experts; national

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action plans, and on the 1540 Committee matrix and implementation. Officials made presentations providing updates as available or noting areas for further discussion to take place during consultations on Day 2. Presentations and discussion were interactive.

Day 2 and early on Day 3 comprised bilateral consultations between the 1540 Committee delegation and small groups of related government departments, and one with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for in-depth discussion on implementation, including identification of effective practices and possible assistance needs. Several related departments from different ministries meeting together also fostered awareness of the relationship between their departments on aspects of resolution 1540 (2004).

On Day 3, the 1540 Committee delegation visited a port to exchange views regarding border management controls. Additionally, a plenary session concluded the visit with a summary of observations and updated information, possible next steps on reporting and continued implementation, and concluding remarks from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AKSHE, and the 1540 Committee Member.

4. Additional Comments

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