

Information Note¹

- Event:** Visit to the United Kingdom (UK), at the invitation of its government, and outreach events at King's College London University (KCL) and Chatham House.
- Organizers:** The Government of the United Kingdom and, for the outreach events, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), KCL and Chatham House.
- Date and Venue:** 5 to 7 November 2014, London, UK
- Participants:** *UK Government (7 November).* Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Her Majesty's Treasury (HM Treasury), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Home Office, Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR), Public Health England (PH(E)), Department for Business Skills and Innovation (DBSI)
United Nations: 1540 Committee Members and Experts
Chatham House and Kings College Events (5 and 6 November).
States: Germany, Malaysia, United Kingdom (UK), United States (US)
Regional Organisations: European Union Joint Research Centre
United Nations: 1540 Committee Members and Experts, 1929 Committee Expert, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Non-Governmental Organisations: Cambridge University (UK), Chatham House (UK), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) (USA), Egyptian Council on Foreign Relations (Egypt), Green Light Exports (UK), Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSS) (India), Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (South Africa), James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies (CNS) (USA), King's College London (UK), Open University (UK), Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (Sweden), Sussex University (UK), Takushoku University (Japan), University of Liège (Belgium), Verification, Education, Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) (UK)

1. Objectives

The United Kingdom invited the 1540 Committee to undertake a country visit in order to:

- Be briefed on the measures undertaken to implement the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and future plans in this regard through meetings with the key national stakeholders;

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.

- Participate in two directly related outreach events; one on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) over the previous ten years and future challenges; and the other with a focus on intangible technology transfers in relation to the implementation of the resolution.

2. Chatham House Event 5 November

The purpose of the day's discussions at Chatham House was to examine the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in its tenth anniversary year with a view to identifying the challenges it faces and the opportunities offered. The day's discussions were launched by an address from FCO Minister with responsibilities for, among other things, counter-terrorism, defence and international security. The discussions were conducted in a series of panels that reflected on progress on implementation so far, explored the synergies between resolution 1540 and other mechanisms, examined ways of overcoming current challenges, and discussed the role of civil society in the implementation of the resolution and looked forward to identify the challenges and opportunities. The participants came from governments and a range of international, regional and non-governmental organisations.

3. King's College, London University Event 6 November

The second day of the visit was devoted to "Preventing Proliferation: Intangible Technology Transfer and Balancing Non-proliferation and Academic Freedom: A Role for UNSCR 1540?" The particular focus was on intangible technology transfers. The event was intended to build on earlier efforts by King's College in the area of export controls, including: the development of a guidance document on implementing non-proliferation controls (export controls and student vetting) in universities that was produced by King's College London and the Association of University Legal Practitioners; a Nuclear Information Security code of conduct that was drafted by King's College London in cooperation with the Institute of Physics on behalf of the British government in support of the Nuclear Security Summit process; and a civil society workshop that was held in New Delhi

4. UK Country Visit 7 November

The major part of the visit was conducted at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in meetings between the 1540 Committee members and experts with key national stakeholders involved in the implementation of resolution 1540. The UK participants came from those departments responsible for nuclear, chemical and biological security, counter-terrorism and export controls. The wide-ranging discussions covered the full range of resolution 1540 obligations. The Committee gained a clear insight into the UK's implementation of the obligations under resolution 1540 through the discussions with the key national stakeholders involved. Of particular value were the differing perspectives provided to the Committee by the wide range of Ministries and institutions that made presentations. These meetings were complemented by a site visit to a Biosafety Level 4 laboratory to observe the operation of the laboratory with a focus on the safety and security arrangements in relation to physical security of the pathogens and the personnel involved.