

*Translated from Russian*

**Information for the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

At the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic and with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a peer review meeting on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was held from 8 to 10 November 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Delegations from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkmenistan and Mongolia, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, participated in the peer review meeting.

At the conclusion of the event, the meeting participants prepared the final document of the Istanbul round of the peer review meeting of the Central Asian countries and Mongolia on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which is enclosed herewith.

The final document of the Istanbul round of the peer review meeting includes, in addition to the outcomes of the review, recommendations of the participating countries on strengthening the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and providing further assistance to the participating countries, namely, the Central Asian countries and Mongolia, in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

In addition, we note that in 2023 the Kyrgyz Republic adopted:

- A new national control list of controlled items, approved by Decision No. 63 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic of 10 February 2023;
- Act No. 25 of the Kyrgyz Republic of 15 February 2023 on amendments to the Export Control Act of the Kyrgyz Republic.

*Enclosed are the Russian and English versions of the final document of the Istanbul round of the peer review meeting of the Central Asian countries and Mongolia on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).*

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## **Final Document**

### **Istanbul Round of a Peer Review Meeting for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the “5+1” format: Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan**

**8-10 November 2022, Istanbul, Türkiye**

This Peer Review Meeting on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) was arranged by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 8-10 November 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The activity was attended by national delegations from Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Expert Group of the UNSCR 1540 Committee created in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) (1540 Committee), German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), and the United States Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance Program (EXBS).

The activity was a continuation of peer reviews conducted since 2014 in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in the region.

Representatives of the peer review Participating States reaffirmed the importance of a comprehensive approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 including via the implementation of national action plans and regional cooperation on matters of the countering of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), goods, works, technologies and services that can be used in the creation of WMDs and means of their delivery.

The peer review Participating States shared their national practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 as well as national achievements registered following the Issyk-Kul Round of UNSCR 1540 peer review that took place in 2018. Of particular interest were national experiences

in the implementation of cooperation programs with partners to facilitate effective implementation of the UNSCR 1540.

In the course of the meeting, representatives of the peer review Participating States further reaffirmed that UNSCR 1540 is an essential tool for countering the proliferation of WMDs that augments efforts in the area of nonproliferation within the framework of international treaties and conventions.

In the course of the meeting, representatives of the peer review Participating States also reviewed matters of the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), as well as matters of export control (border and customs), combatting the financing of terrorism, enforcement and compliance, identification, and licensing.

Based on results of the peer review meeting, the participants discussed and presented the following conclusions and recommendations.

## **1. General conclusions and recommendations**

- 1.1. The Participating States noted the importance of peer reviews taking into consideration the existing accomplishments in the implementation of Final Documents (recommendations) upon completion of each peer review. Therefore, a suggestion was made to continue the practice of peer reviews.
- 1.2. The Participating States assess positively results of the Regional Meeting on Export Control for Licensing and Customs Authorities of Central Asia that took place in 2019 in the Kyrgyz Republic and suggest the following:
  - continue the practice of regional activities on export control for licensing and customs authorities;
  - intensify efforts to harmonize national control lists with multilateral export control regimes including via the sharing of experiences in updating them and the issuance of voluntary notifications by the parties on changes in the national control lists.
- 1.3. The participants noted the relevance of the updating of national reports on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 submitted to the 1540 Committee and sharing experiences in preparing these national reports.
- 1.4. The Parties suggested that, as a part of existing regional projects and programs, prospective technical equipping and building capacity of national centers and laboratories responding to CBRN risks be considered.
- 1.5. The Kyrgyz side suggested that a regional conference of the Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC) be held in 2024 and that requesting facilitation from international and regional organization to arrange and conduct it in the Kyrgyz Republic be considered.
- 1.6. The participants suggested that requesting facilitation from international and regional organizations to implement national projects on strengthening biological and chemical safety

including needs assessment, legislative analysis and legislation improvement, and laboratory equipping and training be considered.

## **2. Conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of CWC**

Since 2018, the peer review Participating States have been taking action to intensify their national efforts to implement CWC by developing and/or taking regulation actions with respect to toxic chemical substances and national control lists of dual-use items, as well as by amending their fundamental legal documents. Several Participating States in the region also acceded to the Geneva Protocol on the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and yet again reaffirmed their commitment to provisions against the use of chemical weapons. The following recommendations were provided to further strengthen the capacity of the Participating States in the region in their national efforts to implement CWC:

- 2.1. Review the existing national legal framework on CWC for compliance with requirements of CWC, especially with respect to the prohibition of chemical weapons and the establishment of a comprehensive regime of regulation of toxic chemical substances.
- 2.2. Intensify national efforts to ensure a comprehensive implementation of CWC including by submitting to the OPCW Technical Secretariat regular reports and updated information about legislative and administrative measures taken to implement CWC.
- 2.3. Assess the existing national legal regime to ensure the adoption of required chemical safety measures needed to eliminate threats stemming from non-state actors.
- 2.4. Continue strengthening national capacity in the area of the preparation of declarations, conducting of domestic inspections, hosting of international inspections from the OPCW Technical Secretariat, as well as in the area of the participation in OPCW programs on proficiency testing of analytical laboratories including by way of arranging national workshops.
- 2.5. Further strengthen the existing capacity to respond to chemical threats and emergencies by way of developing National Plans of Assistance and Protection against the Use or Threats of the Use of Chemical Weapons.
- 2.6. Strengthen capacity of customs/border authorities by way of participating in OPCW courses on training instructors for national customs institutions that are arranged in collaboration with the World Customs Organization.
- 2.7. Review existing mechanisms at the national, bilateral and regional levels to further improve CWC implementation, e.g. by way of sharing best experiences and conducting mentorship/partnership programs.
- 2.8. Continue sharing best experiences and lessons learned among countries of the region on key topics including the development of regulation measures in the area of chemical safety, national control lists and mechanisms of licensing of dual-use items.
- 2.9. Promote the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes by way of interacting with relevant national stakeholders, in particular with the chemical industry, distributors of chemical substances, the academia and the scientific community.
- 2.10. Further strengthen interaction with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and CWC State Parties in other regions by way of participating in regional and international activities.

### **3. Conclusions and recommendations on strengthening the implementation of BWC**

Since 2018, the countries participating in the expert assessment have been taking action to intensify BWC implementation, in particular by way of reviewing, developing or adopting proposals on new or amended laws or rules. Some Participating States adopted amendments in their Criminal Codes and legislation on export control to ensure full compliance with, and enforcement of, BWC prohibitions in their national legal systems. In some Participating States, legislation on biosafety and biosecurity has been already adopted or is being developed. Capacity building and training programs in the area of biosafety and biosecurity represent a priority for the Participating States since the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of preventing disease outbreaks and ensuring readiness and preparedness for them.

Recommendations 1–6 of Annex 2 to the Final Document of the 2018 peer review Issyk-Kul Round remain relevant and are listed below with augmented recommendations as follows:

- 3.1. Intensify efforts to nominate national focal points as applicable.
- 3.2. Recognize the importance of regularly reporting on confidence building measures and best experience sharing.
- 3.3. Draw attention to the importance of regular and timely payments of accrued member dues to BWC.
- 3.4. Consider developing regional projects to strengthen BWC implementation and capacity to respond to the use of biological weapons.
- 3.5. Consider conducting a regional peer review on national implementation of BWC.
- 3.6. Stress the importance of regular exchange of information among relevant regional CBRN initiatives.
- 3.7. Continue working to ensure effective comprehensive implementation of BWC in compliance with national legal systems and practices.
- 3.8. Participate in regional workshops for national focal points to be arranged by BWC ISU in 2023.
- 3.9. In order to improve interagency coordination and raise awareness nationally, consider adopting measures to map powers and responsibilities of authorized ministries and agencies involved in BWC implementation.
- 3.10. Facilitate the sharing of best experiences and lessons learned among countries of the region on topics of interest such as mechanisms of licensing and control of activities and objects related to biological agents that trigger concern.
- 3.11. Explore opportunities for international cooperation and consider implementing national programs on awareness raising and training in biosafety and biosecurity in countries of the region.