

Information Note¹

Event: Regional workshop on ‘Securing the Containerized Supply Chain from Strategic Trade Threats’

Organizer(s): United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Date and Venue: 18- 21 March 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Participants: Governments: Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, the United States of America and the United Kingdom

International Organizations: UNODC and World Customs Organization

Background

- Resolution 2235 (2016) calls upon all States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), focusing, when and where appropriate, on areas where measures should be taken and strengthened.
- Resolution 2235 (2016) also requests the 1540 Committee to continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), and address all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls;
- On 26 February 2019, UNODC sent an invitation to H.E. Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of 1540 Committee, inviting one expert from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in a regional workshop on ‘Securing the Containerised Supply Chain from Strategic Trade Threats’, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-21 March 2019. The workshop falls under the responsibilities of UNODC associated with Resolution 1540 (2004), to provide technical assistance to enhance Member States’ law enforcement capabilities to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, their means of delivery, and related materials by non-State actors.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee nor the organisers or participants in the event.

The workshop brought together relevant Departments and Ministries in the region to further discuss enforcement of strategic trade controls.

Overview

The Workshop was opened by the representative of the government of Japan and UNODC deputy regional representative. In their opening statements, both parties noted that issues related to weapons of mass destruction were regularly making the headlines in Southeast Asia and the proliferators were taking advantages in a more sophisticated manner. They emphasized the importance of full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) and the joint efforts of the international community to counter proliferation. Japan government representative further emphasized the obligations to establish an effective export control system as obligated by resolution 1540 (2004) and the necessities to adopt effective domestic measures.

The UNODC Regional Coordinator then gave a presentation on the state of play of UNODC Container Control Programme (CCP) globally and within South East Asia. He noted that in 2015, 5 containers of weapons and 4 containers of strategic goods were seized globally. And the number of containers containing strategic and dual-use goods seized from 2016-2018 amounted to 19, 17 and 25 respectively. CCP is relevant to resolution 1540 (2004) as the key obligation OP3(c) of the resolution requested member states to maintain and develop appropriated effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat the illicit trafficking or brokering in such items. From 2014-2017, CCP had conducted 24 Strategic trade and export control trainings for 8 South East Asian countries, targeting front line officers. From 2018-2019, 16 strategic trade and export control training were conducted in Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and Cambodia, with participants from both policy side (MoFA) and front-line agencies (customs).

In the first day of the workshop. Representatives of Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam introduced their national efforts on strategic trade control.

The first presentation on the second day was made by WCO representative on WCO's approach to strategic trade control enforcement. WCO representative introduced the background, main content and four pillars of the STCE Programme, namely capacity building, international law enforcement operation, international cooperation and mentoring.

Then the participants were divided into 3 groups for group discussions on strategic trade management and other related topics. Participants have identified factors that undermined the effectiveness and efficiency of national coordination mechanism and suggested mitigation measures to mitigate risks and enhance national coordination.

During the first day's proceedings, the 1540 Committee expert delivered a presentation on resolution (2004). The expert introduced the obligations of member states derived from the

resolution, ways to implement the resolution, implementation status of countries present at the workshop, the upcoming Comprehensive Review and assistance mechanism of the Committee. On the margins of the workshop, the 1540 Committee expert also had informal bilateral meetings with participants from 5 regional countries, encouraging them to provide updated report on national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and discuss with the representatives of each delegation on possible assistance requests and future collaboration.

Additional Comments

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