

Information Note

- Event:** Dual-Use Materials Awareness Workshop for Law Enforcement and Police Border
- Organizers:** Interpol
- Date and Venue:** 28 November to 2 December 2021, Amman (Jordan)
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Interpol, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and World Health Organisation (WHO), Representatives of Canadian Government (financial support) and a 1540 Expert.

Background

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 11 October 2021, the Executive Director Police Services of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), invited the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in the INTERPOL Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) and Vulnerable Targets Sub-Directorate's Dual-use Materials Awareness Workshop for Law Enforcement and Border Police. This event was funded by the Government of Canada.

The focus of the event was to provide representatives of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of resolution 1540 (2004) and its obligations, as well as share experiences and effective practices in dual-use goods management. The workshop aimed to increase law enforcement; frontline customs officers; and border security agencies' awareness of the threat posed by illegal trade of biological materials and associated dual-use equipment. Integrated border security management principles were introduced, with a focus on the implementation of prevention, detection, inspection and information sharing. Counselling effective measures to prevent illicit trafficking of biological materials and their means of delivery, including export, transit, trans-shipment, and border controls.

Highlights

The workshop was opened by Brigadier Walid Qashha, Assistant Director at the Public Security Directorate. He said that the workshop aimed at assisting the implementation of relevant international instruments. He noted that States joint cooperation is important for achieving this

purpose. He congratulated all participants to take part in this regional workshop hosted by the Jordan International Police Training Center (JIPTC) that intends to increase its support for such international events.

Interpol subsequently delivered thanks to the JIPTC for hosting the event as well as the Government of Canada for its financial support. He recalled that Interpol has 195 member countries, all working in the framework of a partnership, making them the world's largest police Organisation. Although the pandemic has decreased the possibilities of organising meetings, he was pleased that the Bioterrorism Prevention Unit of Interpol was able to maintain an awareness among membership in the context of rapid advances in Biotechnologies and subsequent risk of diversion of dual-use goods. He finally thanked the Experts from International Organisations for their participation in in-presence format (WCO and UNSCR 1540) or online format (WHO).

The Canadian Government Representative thanked Interpol and the JIPTC for delivering this important event due to the increase of terrorism acts using WMD, the challenge posed by detection of bio-agents, in a context of high international crisis risks. He emphasized the necessity for multi-agency cooperation at an international level.

Interpol presented participating States delegations composed of Customs, Border Police/Guards, Trafficking inspectors, including anti-drug and narcotics, experts in bio-weapon and explosives (forensic). He recalled the objective of the workshop that aimed at increasing law enforcement through frontline Customs officers, Border security agencies awareness of the threat posed by illegal trade of biological dual-use materials. He emphasized the importance of inter-agencies cooperation, information-sharing between Customs, Law enforcement and other Security Border agencies for addressing illicit trade challenges.

The training brought together 36 participants from various frontline agencies (this was reduced after the Moroccan delegation had to leave due to national travel restrictions). The participation of the 1540 expert was an opportunity to contribute to the workshop to enhance awareness of resolution 1540 in particular its OP3(c&d) on export control measures.

Capacity building of Customs and Police Borders has been identified as a key challenge in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States, requiring continuous assistance, ideally in an international/regional format.

Additional Comments

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