

## **Information note**

**Event:**            **The Workshop on the Implementation of UN SC Resolution 1540**

**Organizers:**    **Government of Azerbaijan and NATO (Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC))**

**Date and Venue:** **12-13 April 2011, Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Participants:**   Participants of Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, Serbia, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, DTRA, NATO, UNODA, UN 1540 Committee expert

### **Objectives of the Workshop**

- Discuss the implementation of the resolution and the prospects for practical cooperation in combating proliferation of WMD and preventing illicit trafficking in related materials
- Examine good practices for strengthening border and expert controls
- Exchange experience and share information on existing challenges in conducting counter-proliferation and counter-terrorist measures.
- Establish or/and expand working contacts with officials and experts from East European, Central Asian and NATO countries.

### **Background**

The 1540 Committee has a history of cooperating with NATO including presentations by the Chair. The NATO structures have authority and funding capabilities to support implementation of the resolution. The workshop in Baku previously scheduled for April 2010 was included in the 1540 calendar of outreach events.

Participation of the 1540 Committee expert in the workshop contributed to the better understanding of the existing achievements and problems in the process of the implementation of the resolution in Azerbaijan and in states of South Eastern Europe. It also facilitated establishing closer contacts with experts from Azerbaijan and some regional states.

### **Highlights**

Deputy Chairman of State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan Mr. Abdullayev in his opening statement noted that his country has in place relevant legislation and

enforcement base to fight proliferation of WMD related materials and to prevent terrorists from having access to them. According to his words Azerbaijan pays great attention to the implementation of resolution 1540 and in this regard closely cooperates with NATO and other relevant organizations. He said that no facts of import, export or transit of WMD related materials have been revealed in recent years in Azerbaijan.

The Head of NATO's WMD Non-proliferation Center Mr. Bylica in his opening speech focused on practical cooperation in fulfillment of UN Security Council resolution 1540: exchange of experience and assistance. He praised the high level of interaction of EAPC countries in their counter-proliferation and counter-terrorist efforts. Mr. Bylica mentioned NATO's practical contribution to the occupation operations in the Caspian Sea especially with regard to air surveillance, sea routes monitoring and training programs.

The two high level representatives from Romania concentrated on the problems of export controls as essential for fulfillment of the requirements of the resolution.

In their view, the very fact that the Black/Caspian Sea regions lie at the crossroads of trade routes makes transit and trans-shipment issues of special concern. Even if legal strategic trade is under strict control the risk of post-shipment diversion remains high. Describing Romanian practices and experiences they noted that constant enhancing of professional skills of enforcement officials including customs officers is a must. Rapid technical and scientific development also dictates regular revision of control lists and upgrading of interagency process.

The speaker from DTRA paid special attention to the efforts of this organization to support partnership around the globe to reduce the threat of WMD and address risks of nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological materials proliferation. With regard to DTRA's mission in the Black/Caspian sea region, he stressed that in Azerbaijan this agency assisted in establishing surveillance capabilities for 90% of shipping lanes to enhance interdiction efforts, in Kazakhstan provided maritime interdiction assistance, in Ukraine provided monitoring capability for 90% of traffic through ports of entry and coastal traffic, in Uzbekistan installed portal monitors along high traffic areas to detect nuclear trafficking.

### **The presentation of the 1540 Committee expert**

The presentation by the expert was focused on the issues of experience sharing and assistance in the course of the implementation of the resolution. Experience sharing can facilitate a state attracting greater national and international support including direct assistance from donor states that could make capacity building more effective in legislative and enforcement areas.

The expert mentioned that experience sharing involves not only states but also international regional and inter-governmental organizations (IROs and IGOs respectively) which contribute greatly to the process of implementation. IGOs have accumulated a great deal of professional experience to share in combating

proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials. Many of them have developed model laws, relevant programs or practices that form a solid basis for the experience sharing, in particular, the IAEA and the OPCW have elaborated model laws and provisions that could be useful for many states implementing the resolution

Noting that in 2007 Azerbaijan applied for technical and practical assistance he said that the Committee would appreciate if the representatives from the hosts could inform the Committee on the status of this assistance request, additional interests, and what experience with assistance they may wish to share with the 1540 Committee and experts.

In an explanatory mode he mentioned that the Committee is involved in contacts with assistance providers, including potential donors. This is important to facilitate stocktaking with regard to relevant multilateral or bilateral assistance programs that can be provided by some states or relevant international organizations.

### **Outcome of the workshop**

The workshop in Baku was useful. First of all for the purposes of understanding the status of implementation of the resolution in this region, the existing programs provided by donors and the needs for additional technical assistance. It also helped to establish new contacts with local officials and some representatives from the CIS as well for the possible follow up.