

Information Note¹

Event	Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)
Organiser	Republic of Serbia with support of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) of the Secretariat of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Date and Venue	9-10 May 2013, Belgrade, Serbia
Participants	<i>States:</i> Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <i>Organisations / Other speakers:</i> BWC-Implementation Support Unit (via video-message), Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA), Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Belarus (Republican Research & Practical Centre for Epidemiology & Microbiology), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), OSCE, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNODA, U.S. State Department (1540 Coordinator and EXBS), World Health Organisation and 1540 Committee Group of Experts

1. Conference Objectives

- To exchange national experiences and effective practices in the area of practical implementation of resolution 1540(2004), with a particular focus on voluntary National Action Plans and capacity-building at national and regional level

2. Background

The workshop was a follow-up to previous regional activities, in particular the regional “Workshop on Implementing Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for Southeast European States” which was held 14-17 June 2010 in Split, Croatia.

States in this region have demonstrated a notable commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 1540, e.g. by preparing voluntary 1540 National Implementation Action Plans in liaison with the 1540 Committee experts and with the support of OSCE and UNODA. With resolution 1977

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.

(2011) the UN Security Council has encouraged States to prepare on a voluntary basis such national action plans which map out the priorities and plans of States for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). The host was the first State in the region to prepare such a plan (http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/pdf/Serbia_action-plan.pdf).

3. Highlights

The two-day workshop focused on the following topics:

- 1.) Effective practices in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and voluntary action plans,
- 2.) Capacity-building or assistance programmes in the framework of resolution 1540 (2004),
- 3.) Bio-security and
- 4.) Regional cooperation.

Participating States provided an overview and update on on-going implementation efforts, especially with regard to their experiences in drafting voluntary national action plans.

Speakers from the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, UNODA, the OSCE, OPCW, UNICRI, BAFA and the US State Department provided information on how States can draw on the support and experience of others to implement the resolution and presented existing assistance programmes.

To add a thematic focus for the seminar, the organizers had invited representatives from the BWC-ISU, the WHO, the Ministry of Public Health of Belarus and the Serbian University of Defense to present and discuss efforts in the field of biosecurity and biosafety.

The participants discussed various options on how regional cooperation could be enhanced in this area, including ways to better link resolution 1540 (2004)-related implementation activities with the EU's CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre's of Excellence initiative.

Concluding the workshop, the participants agreed on a set of informal recommendations for follow up action (see attachment). Apart from expressing support and the willingness of the States in the region to cooperate closely with the 1540 Committee and to make use of the existing implementation tools, these recommendations emphasize their intent to enhance regional cooperation.

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