

Information Note¹

- Event:** Training for the 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific Region
- Organisers:** Hosted by the Government of China in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) using voluntary contributions provided by the Governments of China, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the European Union.
- Date and Venue:** 7-11 September 2015, Qingdao, China
- Participants:** *National Participants:* Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Instructors from International/regional organisations and other governmental entities:* Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association (A-PBA), Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), U.S. EXBS Programme of the Department of State, /National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the U.S. Department of Energy, World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee Members and Experts, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Background

- To facilitate implementation of the obligations contained in resolution 1540 (2004), States are encouraged to inform the Committee of their Points of Contact on the implementation of resolution 1540 (1540 Points of Contact), both in their capitals and in their Permanent Missions in New York. To date, 81 States have nominated a national Point of Contact, mainly from their respective foreign ministries. Some also act as points of contact for assistance.
- This training course for 1540 Points of Contact was intended to enhance their understanding of resolution 1540 (2004), its background and its implementation challenges. It was designed to benefit especially Points of Contact that have been newly appointed and to encourage the nomination of Points of Contact by States that have yet to do so.
- On 5 February 2015, the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations sent a *Note Verbale* to the Chair of the 1540 Committee offering to host a training course in China for 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific Region. The Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations also invited the 1540 Chair to a bilateral meeting with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 September 2015 in Beijing through its *Note Verbale* dated 14 July 2015.

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.

Highlights

The course was opened by the 1540 Chair and the Deputy Director-General of the Arms Control and Disarmament Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A message was also delivered on behalf of the High Representative for Disarmament. These statements are available at 1540 Committee website (<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/outreach-events/events.shtml>).

The course provided instruction and opportunities for discussion on the following lines:

- Briefings on proliferation risks in relation to non-State actors as a context for the implementation of the principal obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) and its mechanisms such as reporting, voluntary national implementation action plans and assistance.
- National presentations by the government representatives on their implementation experiences.
- Briefings on the implementation of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 by both the 1540 Experts and invited representatives from international organisation, plus experts from the United States and Germany
- An interactive discussion and sharing of experience among the government representatives on means to achieve effective implementation of resolution 1540. In addition a table top exercise on commodity identification was conducted to demonstrate the nature and need for this type of training for customs and border officials.

A site visit was organised by the government of China to the container port at Qingdao. The visit was very important for participants to make a direct connection between the resolution's obligations and the implications and challenges for action on the ground – in this case a container port handling nearly 406 million tonnes of containers and cargo per year.

This course proved to be a solid foundation for planning future courses in other regions.

While in China, on 6 September in Beijing, the Chair of the 1540 Committee held a bilateral meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Baodong Li and other senior officials from the Arms Control and Disarmament Department at the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

The Chair also met with Ambassador Changhe Li, Senior Advisor, and Mr. Kai Chen, Secretary General, of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA).

Additional Comments

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