

Information Note¹

- Event:** Armenian National Roundtable on implementation of resolution 1540 and drafting a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan
- Organizers:** Government of Armenia and the Conflict Prevention Center of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in cooperation with UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and venue:** 24-26 September 2013, Yerevan, Armenia
- Participants:** *States:* Armenia, Georgia, and the United States of America
International organizations: 1540 Committee Group of Experts; OSCE; United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

1. National roundtable objectives

The Government of Armenia aims to develop a strategic and overarching approach to its Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) policies by preparing, on a voluntary basis, a national implementation action plan on resolution 1540 (2004) and international commitments to mitigate CBRN proliferation risks which will include an all-hazards CBRN policy to anticipate and respond to these risks, and to reduce Armenia's vulnerability to CBRN events, in accordance with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (COE) Initiative.

2. Background

Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) encourages States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans on resolution 1540 (2004) and urges states and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to provide assistance, as appropriate. As of September 2013, seven states reported to the 1540 Committee the development of such plans (posted online at:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/national-action-plans.shtml>)

The EU CBRN COE Initiative was launched in May 2010 in response to the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of countries outside Europe to mitigate CBRN risks, including criminal activities (e.g. CBRN proliferation or terrorism), natural disasters (e.g. pandemics) and accidental disasters (e.g. Fukushima-like). The objective of the COE Initiative is to develop a structural, all-hazards CBRN policy at the national, regional and international levels to anticipate and respond to these risks, and to reduce the vulnerability of countries to CBRN events. The initiative aims to provide training and assistance in the implementation of international commitments to mitigate CBRN proliferation risks; support national capacities to develop and enforce legal measures; ensure ownership and sustainability through an integrated regional approach; and provide a coherent package covering all aspects of CBRN proliferation, including export controls, illicit transfers, safety and security, and emergency planning and crisis response. The EU CBRN COE initiative is supported by EU member states and presents an innovative and broad-ranging approach, in alignment with European security objectives, aiming to help partner

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countries build institutional capacities and implement a coherent and coordinated strategy for CBRN risk mitigation.

3. **Highlights**

Armenia is the first UN Member State to start a formal approach to developing a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan on resolution 1540 (2004) to include an all-hazards CBRN policy in accordance with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (COE) Initiative.

Armenia's formal approach involves inter alia intra-government coordination of stakeholders, identifying private-public partnerships, setting priorities for action within ministries and across government for effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and developing a strategic and overarching approach to CBRN risk mitigation including emergency preparedness and response.

Identifying synergy and convergence between the 1540 action plan and other national strategies and plans (such as the CBRN National Action Plan of the EU CBRN COE Initiative, national counterterrorism strategy, or the national action plan for implementation of the International Health Regulations) may bring together various (apparently disparate) governmental efforts and maximize the use of national resources (personnel, capabilities, etc.).

Coordination across ministries may also serve to pinpoint specific or cross-sectoral areas that need to be strengthened and/or require the preparation of a Request for Assistance to be submitted to the 1540 Committee, or to be addressed by the training and assistance provided by the EU CBRN COE Initiative or other bilateral engagements.

4. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.