



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

Seminar on Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540

26-27 June 2014, Rakitje, Croatia

Organised in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

Introduction

The Seminar on Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540, co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) was a continuation of the unprecedented pilot project activity in 2013 regarding the nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The Seminar was organized with the aim to enhance the effective practices of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and attempted to show good practices and make new links between peers for future collaboration and exchanges. Moreover, the Seminar highlighted the importance of common action regarding nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as this remains a big threat for international peace and security.

The Execution

During the first day (Thursday, 26 June) the following topics were presented:

- *Update on the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)* by Mr Kai Kiessler, the 1540 expert of the UN 1540 Committee.



Group photo

After a short introduction, Mr Kiessler, who is one of 9 experts of the UN 1540 Committee gave a brief overview of the work of the UN 1540 Committee, the recent developments, the items of the “1540 toolbox,” the “1540 matrix,” the 1540 National Implementation Action Plan and the message delivered by the UN Secretary General.



Seminar participants

- *The 1540 Peer Review* by Mr Nikita Smidovich, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNODA. In regards to the Peer Review,

Mr. Smidovich gave an overview of the definition of the Peer Review concept, the current practices, the key pillars, the basics and the basic ingredients. Mr Smidovich talked about a possible program of such a visit and possible subjects for presentations as well. He also directed the attention of the audience to the UNODA website.



Mr Nikita Smidovich (UNODA)

- *Peer Review of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and Croatian National Strategy on Non-proliferation of WMD* outlined by Mrs Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Director for NATO and International Security, MFEA, HR. Mrs Bujas-Juraga discussed the obligations arising from the UNSCR 1540, the UNSCR 1540 and the HR-PL Peer Review, the meeting in Croatia in June 2013 and its plenary session in Zagreb and the on-site visit to the port of Rijeka. Among others, Mrs Bujas-Juraga outlined the Croatian national strategy and action plan for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

- *The UNSCR 1540 Peer Review as an Effective Practice/ Effective practices identified during Peer Review* presented by Mr Łukasz Zieliński, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations in New York. The core of Mr. Zielinski's presentation was the description of the Peer Review in Poland, of the related 3-day events, among them the field trip to the Warsaw Airport.

Once the national presentations were given (AL, BA, HR, ME, MK, RS, TR) the following lectures were presented:

- *A Peer Review mechanism for the Biological Weapons Convention – An Innovative Approach* by Ms Tiphaine Jouffroy, MFA FR. Ms Jouffroy informed the participants about the pilot exercise, organized by the MFA of France between 4-6 December 2013. The program's 3 main topics focused on Articles III-IV of the BWC including 2 on-site visits.

- *Peer Reviews: A Tool for Co-operation and Change - Analysis of an OECD Working Method* by Ms Chantal Verger, Senior policy analyst, OECD. In her presentation Ms Verger gave an outline of the OECD activities in general, provided the participants with a definition of a Peer Review and talked about its structural elements.

- The presentation given by Ms Heba Negm (IAEA) dealt with the connections between IAEA/UNSCR1540, the activities in support of UNSCR 1540, the peer reviews and the INSSPs (Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans).



Mr Kai Kiessler, the UN 1540 Committee expert

During the second day (Friday, 20 September) the following lecturers' presentations were given:

Ms Esther Felices Zubiri, Project Manager, Organization of American States – Inter-American Committee against Terrorism;

Ms Maria Lorenzo Sobrado, Programme Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC;

Mr Quentin Michel, Professor, Joint Research Center, EC;

Ms Marieke Van Doorn, Director of the International Law & Human Rights Programme, PGA;

Mr O'Neil Hamilton, Regional coordinator for 1540 Resolution Implementation, CARICOM;

Mr Danilo Campisi, Legal Officer, Implementation Support Branch, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

Ms Maria Ximena Espitia Meza, First Secretary, Coordination of Disarmament and Non Proliferation, MFA CO;

Mr André Coore, Legal Officer, MFA JK;

Mr Raphael Hermoso, Director for Peace and Security, DFA PH;

Ms Shayna Steinger, First Secretary, Deputy US Special Coordinator for UNSCR 1540, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation.



Ms Heba Negm (IAEA), Mrs Chantal Verger (OECD), Mr Danilo Campisi (OPCW)

At the end of the second day a round table discussion was held on the effective practices in supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

The final part of the seminar was devoted to the evaluation and the closing ceremony.

After the closing ceremony the participants were provided with the opportunity to take part in bilateral and other meetings between participants.

Conclusion

Thanks to the cooperation between RACVIAC, the UNODA and the MFEA of the Republic Croatia, the presence of high-level lecturers was ensured. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants.

According to the participants the seminar was highly successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of the national authorities and relevant organizations dealing with the UNSCR 1540 issues in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.



First working day

The lecturers originated from such far away countries as Chile, Colombia, Jamaica (together with the US, the American continent was very well represented) and the Philippines.

The co-organisers expressed an interest in organizing a follow-up event, and the planned activity was proposed to take place in December 2014.

All in all, this event proved to be yet another good example of strong cooperation among RACVIAC, the UNODA and the MFEA of Croatia. As UNSCR 1540 requires every state to criminalize the involvement of various forms of non-state actors in weapons of mass destruction and related activities in their national legislation and, once in place, to enforce such legislation, RACVIAC stands ready to support this

global, universal obligation and, in cooperation with the partners involved in the execution of this successful event, to

continue promoting UNSCR 1540 and the NIAPs.

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