

Information Note¹

Event:	Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG) meeting
Organizers:	United States of America in its Presidency of the G-8
Date and Venue:	13-14 March 2012; Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.
Participants:	<i>States:</i> Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States <i>Other: European Union</i> <i>International organizations and other entities:</i> Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), 1540 Committee Chairman's representative as 1540 Committee member and two 1540 Committee experts <i>Civil society:</i> King's College London.

1. Objectives

- Make presentations to update GPWG participants on recent developments, including on assistance and country-specific activities;
- Participate in regional break-out sessions;
- Obtain feedback from Global Partnership partners on the presentation regarding match-making on assistance delivered by a 1540 Committee expert, at the 24-25 January 2012 meeting of the GPWG;
- Work directly with the more than twenty states of the GPWG and other invited participants on match-making using the consolidated list of assistance requests, updated since its distribution for the January 2012 meeting;
- Discuss actions taken, trends in assistance, and exchange lessons learned;
- Encourage GPWG participants to submit points of contact to the 1540 Committee.

2. Background

At the Deauville G8 Summit, in May 2011, Heads of State and Government decided to renew the Global Partnership beyond 2012. Moreover, the G8 *Global Partnership Assessment and Options for Future Programming* document (Deauville, May 2011) identifies four priorities for the future of the Partnership, including facilitation of resolution 1540 and for which Global Partnership partners can consider providing assistance: “*By providing equipment, expertise and training, GP partners could enhance WMD non-proliferation and counter-terrorism capacities in countries seeking to meet 1540 obligations and lacking the ability to do so, upon their request.*”

The 13-14 March 2012 meeting was the second one under the US Presidency of the G-8, after the one held on 24-25 January 2012, in Washington, D.C.; subsequent GPWG meetings under the U.S.

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.

Presidency are planned for April, September and October 2012. The U.S. aims to focus its efforts in 2012 on: improving the coordination of project planning, possibly to include international implementing bodies; expansion of the Global Partnership to more members, possibly including relevant regional organizations; and, achieving greater clarity on funding.

In its January 2012 letter to the U.S. G-8 Presidency, the 1540 Committee refers to the consolidated list of assistance requests approved by the Committee and shared with the G-8 partners, mentioning it would welcome a substantive and pro-active dialogue with the G-8 partners on this issue.

3. **Highlights**

Presentations were made by GP Partners as well as international organizations and entities. A representative of the 1540 Committee updated meeting participants on 1540-related developments and on opportunities for further cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the GPWG. In this context, the 1540 Committee representative noted that Togo coordinates the working group on international cooperation since February 2012.

The 1540 Committee experts provided updates on the consolidated list of assistance requests shared by the 1540 Committee with the G-8 partners, presenting again possible match-making options as delivered initially by a 1540 Committee expert to the GPWG meeting in January 2012; and also delivered a presentation on the matter of points of contact submitted to the 1540 Committee by States and by international organizations, recalling the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions, and inviting States and international organizations that have not yet done so to consider doing so, as appropriate.

Two working group sessions were held on:

- 1) Centers of Excellence and Support Centers; and,
- 2) Biosecurity.

As a new initiative in the structure of the GPWG meetings, regional break-out sessions were established for Global Partnership Partners and international organisations to have in-depth discussions on their existing and proposed assistance projects, including those aimed to facilitate resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Additional comments**

Additional information is available at <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/c12743.htm>.

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