

Conference on Disarmament

7 May 2019
English
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Note verbale dated 6 May 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the Chairperson's summary of the regional seminar on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), held in Minsk on 3 and 4 April 2019

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to forward the Chairperson's summary of the regional seminar on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), held in Minsk on 3 and 4 April 2019.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful for the said Chair's summary to be distributed as an official document of the Conference among Member and Observer States of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex

Summary by the Chair of the regional workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (Minsk, 3–4 April 2019)

1. The regional workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, in cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its Expert Group, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with the financial support of the European Union.
2. During the opening session, the importance of a comprehensive approach to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 was underlined, including the coordination of activities and regional cooperation to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), materials and technologies that can be used for their development and their means of delivery. The important role of OSCE was emphasized as a regional platform for interaction, exchange of experience and assistance in the implementation of resolution 1540.
3. Resolution 1540 is a global and effective tool to counter the proliferation of WMD, complementary to the efforts made to ensure non-proliferation in the framework of international treaties and conventions and by the relevant organizations.
4. The Coordinator of the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) reported on the results of the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) that had taken place in 2016, which had served as the basis for the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2325 (2016).
5. The participating States conducted a substantive discussion of the unofficial recommendations resulting from the regional workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), held in January 2013 in Minsk. The participants agreed that the proposed recommendations remained relevant. A number of them have already been implemented or are continuing to be implemented.
6. A discussion was held on the progress made in implementing the provisions of resolution 1540, including by carrying out voluntary national action plans prepared with the assistance of OSCE, the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as other measures in the fields of export control and nuclear, chemical and biological security.
7. Information was presented on peer reviews of the implementation of resolution 1540 in the trilateral and six-party formats. The usefulness of such activities, aimed at exchanging practical experience with a view to effectively implementing resolution 1540 at the regional level, was emphasized, and the view was expressed that more active involvement by international and regional organizations would be beneficial in the peer reviews.
8. The OSCE and United Nations representatives reported on their role in supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. The representatives of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit presented their assistance programmes aimed at capacity-building to prevent the proliferation of WMD and related materials.
9. Among the issues requiring further elaboration and coordination are the following:
 - (a) The provision of updated national reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 for the upcoming 2021 comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

- (b) Accession to international instruments related to resolution 1540;
 - (c) Development of common approaches for expert studies identifying controlled goods and technologies;
 - (d) Harmonization of control lists with multilateral export control regimes;
 - (e) Measures to ensure nuclear, chemical and biological security, by all parties;
 - (f) The question of the monitoring of end-users and of the end use of delivered products;
 - (g) Coordination meetings of licensing and customs authorities;
 - (h) The engagement, as appropriate, of the industrial groups and scientific, academic and expert communities of the participating States to help with the implementation of resolution 1540;
 - (i) Continuation of the practice whereby peer reviews of the implementation of resolution 1540 are conducted in a regional format, and the engagement in this process of other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States region, if they are interested.
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