September Event: The Strategic Context

Dates
22-25 September 2015
First Session: 22 September, afternoon
Second Session: 23-25 September

Venue
RACVIAC, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia

Background
After the big success of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Table-Top Exercise (TTX) held in April this year, and in line with the objectives and roadmap approved by the MAG, the C-WMD Network is organising a second event in RACVIAC to discuss the strategic context of counter proliferation and the development of national strategies and action plans. The C-WMD Network welcomes the continuous support from U.S. European Command (US-EUCOM), U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia in the planning and execution of this event.

During the April PSI TTX, participants gained a clear overview of international obligations in countering WMD proliferation, the key elements of a strategy, and a good description of a risk assessment process. A high degree of interest in developing a national strategy and action plan to counter WMD proliferation was evident, and participants at the working level expressed their willingness to share experience and knowledge in issues related to WMD: It was also obvious that there is a need for increased political support for this effort. Therefore, following the principle of tailoring event to meet the needs of the participating nations, the upcoming event is divided into two sessions. The first session (one afternoon) is dedicated to the senior political level, who will discuss the importance of embarking on the development of a national strategy to counter WMD proliferation.

The second session will be devoted to participants at the working level, and the importance of continuity for the whole project, i.e., continuous participation of the identified national project-leaders should here be stressed.

Purpose
First Session: the purpose of this first session is to gather the senior political level to discuss the strategic context of WMD counter proliferation.

Objectives
The objectives are:

- To provide an insight of current WMD/CBRN proliferation threats and challenges
- To introduce participants to the international obligations to counter WMD proliferation and the supporting concept of developing national strategies and action plans
- To provide an opportunity to openly discuss the practical implications of the C-WMD Network initiative

Second Session: the purpose of the second session is to provide a comprehensive overview of what constitutes a national WMD counter proliferation strategy.

The objectives are:
To support the identification of policy development teams and key policy contents in a national WMD counter proliferation strategy

To obtain an overview of the global reach of proliferation (threats and challenges) as well as effective cooperation with international partners and initiatives (responses)

To identify strategic responses to proliferation, such as detection, identification, disruption and dismantling

To help establish the link between a counter proliferation strategy and the national operational capacity

To highlight the importance of legal considerations

To develop a draft strategy outline and national planning schedule

**Participants**
Approximately 60 participants (1+5), namely one at senior political level and up to five at working level from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo\(^1\), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\(^2\), Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Representatives from each of the MAG countries, relevant international organisations and academics will also be invited. For the second session they should be the identified national project-leaders as well as either senior military or civilian recommendation-makers. This event will particularly focus on the strategic consideration of the development or refinement of national counter proliferation strategies.

**Methodology**
The First Session will be held during the first afternoon and it will consist of presentations and discussions in open forum.
The Second Session will last 3 days. It will comprise presentation, discussion, case-studies and exercises, and it will provide an appropriate setting and atmosphere to encourage focused discussion. The working language will be English (STANAG 3232).

**POC**
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\(^1\) This designation is without prejudice to the position status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (in accordance with arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation)

\(^2\) The Republic of Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name