

**Seminar on Effective Practices of
the Implementation of UNSCR 1540
9-11 December 2014
Rakitje, Croatia**

*In cooperation with
the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and
the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia*

Dates 9-11 December 2014

Venue RACVIAC, Rakitje, Republic of Croatia

Background The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, including to non-State actors, remains a threat to international peace and security. The international community recognized this as an emerging danger and the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted the Resolution 1540 in April 2004. It called for specific measures to prohibit any non-State actor from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Through Resolution 1540, the Security Council established an effective global framework to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In its subsequent resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council encouraged “all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee”. UNODA co-organized, in particular in cooperation with the 1540 Committee, OSCE and OAS country-specific activities upon invitations of a number of Member States, in particular to facilitate the preparation of voluntary national implementation action plans (NIAPs). As a result, Belarus, Colombia, Republic of Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ have adopted national plans². Several NIAPs are in the process of being prepared. In addition, several Member States (Argentina, Canada, France Niger, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America) have also submitted their national implementation plans to the 1540 Committee.

The implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), in particular the preparation of voluntary national implementation plans, has received special attention in the region of South-Eastern Europe (SEE). Thus, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs - following the successful execution of similar events in September 2013 and June 2014 - is organizing another seminar aimed at facilitating the identification of effective national practices in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), as well as promoting the 1540 implementation amongst its Members and assisting the 1540 Committee in its relevant tasks.

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name.

² NIAPs which were submitted to the 1540 Committee could be found at the 1540 Committee’s website <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/national-action-plans.shtml>

Purpose & Objectives	The purpose of the seminar, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and RACVIAC, in cooperation with the UNODA, is to facilitate the identification of effective national practices in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) focussing on the preparation and implementation of NIAPs. The objectives of the seminar are to provide a forum for the participating States to share experience and practices of the preparation and implementations of NIAPs and to encourage further international and regional cooperation in relevant areas, as appropriate.
Participants	Around 40 participants are anticipated. RACVIAC member countries will be invited. Participants from all UN Member States which have adopted NIAPs or expressed interest to prepare such plans as well as representatives of relevant international organizations (1540 Committee, IAEA, OPCW, BWC-ISU, WHO, OSCE, OAS, CARICOM) are expected to attend.
Methodology	<p>The event will take place in the form of a seminar to be held from 9 to 11 December. The seminar will provide an opportunity for national officials and representatives of intergovernmental organizations to discuss and share practices in the 1540 implementation focussing on the preparation and implementations of NIAPs. All seminar materials will be distributed on a CD at the end of the event. The working language will be English.</p> <p>Member States are kindly informed that RACVIAC encourages all lecturers to submit written essays on their area of expertise to be referred to during their presentation at the RACVIAC activity. Most prominent and current essays will then be published in the “RACVIAC Compendium – Assortment of RACVIAC Prominent Lecturers’ Insights” that will be issued at least once a year, preferably at the beginning of the year for the previous year but with an option and aim to become semi-annual if input and interest of the targeted audience is satisfactory.</p> <p>Understanding the additional effort and time needed to be put into the writing of this essay, RACVIAC will stimulate it with an amount of 100 euros per essay. The essays should comprise at least 1500 words and should be submitted electronically and in the hard copy version to RACVIAC before the actual lecture or presentation is given. The author of the submitted essay should give his/her written permission to RACVIAC to publish the essay in the “RACVIAC Compendium” waiving future claims or compensations towards RACVIAC.</p>
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