

VERTIC's cooperation with partner agencies on UNSCR 1540 implementation



Rocío Escauriaza Leal

Legal Officer, VERTIC

OSCE workshop to identify the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of UNSCR 1540

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VERTIC and Partners

VERTIC cooperates with a wide range of partners in UNSCR 1540 implementation:

- States wishing to implement UNSCR 1540
- UNSCR 1540: UNODA and the 1540 Committee Expert Group
- BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU)
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Regional Organizations: CARICOM, SICA, EU and we look forward to strengthening our cooperation with the OSCE
- Close cooperation with governments such as the United Kingdom (FCO) and Canada (G8 Global Partnership Program)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UNODC on a project concerning the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials
- Other NGOs, civil society networks and academia, such as BWPP and LSE

Cooperative activities

We cooperate with States that wish to implement UNSCR 1540

- share information with national Points of Contact
- draft WMD, BWC and CWC implementing legislation
- establish a National Authority
- ratify/accede to the BWC and CWC
- develop an Action Plan: a timetable for reviewing, finalizing and passing the draft law through Parliament
- we provide other partners' contact details for further assistance
- encourage States to become assistance providers at the regional level

We share information

- on the status of our work with 1540 assistance partners
- about our cooperation with specific States (if that State has publicly acknowledged our involvement)

Cooperative activities

Joint assistance visits - with the ISU, EUJA and ICRC

Each partner provides different expertise

- ISU/BWC EUJA raise awareness about the BWC and the CBM mechanism
- ICRC provides expertise on criminal provisions and humanitarian law

We hope we will soon start conducting joint assistance visits with the OSCE

Joint review of draft legislation - with the ICRC

Joint development of legislative drafting tools

- Short BWC sample act developed by ICRC & VERTIC
- We hope to cooperate with regional organizations on regional model approaches
- VERTIC's tools are often reviewed by key experts in the field

Cooperative activities

Cooperation on BWC/CWC universalization activities

Close cooperation with the BWC ISU and the UK FCO on universalization activities, where demarches in capital are most efficient.

Co-organizing and participating in workshops to raise awareness of implementation obligations, to discuss the status of implementation and to scope assistance needs

VERTIC organized 2 workshops in 2008 and 2009 on means to cooperate among the NBC assistance providers

Input to papers related to UNSCR 1540, BWC and CWC implementation – with the BWC community and the OPCW

Scope to strengthen cooperation

Maintain and enhance informal co-ordination among the assistance providers, regional organizations and the 1540 Committee and its experts.

Joint discussions to assess assistance needs, including on margins of meetings

Synchronize assistance efforts, to the extent possible, to ensure effective use of limited resources and to bolster States' implementation efforts.

Improve turnaround time for providing assistance so that States will have ownership of their implementation process

Heighten the visibility of UNSCR 1540 in the related treaty processes, where implementation review and assistance is ongoing (eg. 1540 Experts could observe these meetings and participate in side events)

Scope for cooperation with the OSCE

Some key areas where VERTIC and the OSCE can strengthen cooperation:

- Use VERTIC's legal expertise to
 - Organize joint assistance visits as we have done with other partners
 - Draft WMD, BWC or CWC legislation: we understand the drafting process, the issues arising from drafting and we have in-house civil law and common law lawyers that can work in several languages
 - To establish a National Authority for UNSCR 1540 enforcement
- Use of VERTIC's tools to
 - Draft legislation (2 Sample Acts and a Regulatory Guideline available in several languages)
 - To raise awareness on UNSCR1540, BWC and CWC implementation requirements amongst OSCE participating countries

Contact details

- **Angela Woodward**, *Programme Director*
angela.woodward@vertic.org / +64 22 677 5223
- **Scott Spence**, *Senior Legal Officer*
scott.spence@vertic.org / +41 794139903
French, Spanish languages
- **Rocío Escauriaza Leal**, *Legal Officer*
rocio.escauriaza@vertic.org / + 34 639609101
French, Spanish languages
- **Yasemin Balci**, *Programme Assistant*
yasemin.balci@vertic.org / + 34 639609101
Dutch, Turkish languages

The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)

Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street

London EC2A 4LT, United Kingdom

Tel +44 20 7065 0880

Fax +44 20 7065 0890

Web www.vertic.org

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