



# 1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

*Sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices in the area of non-proliferation of biological weapons, related materials and their means of delivery*

*Dana Perkins, PhD  
1540 Committee Expert*

*Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts  
Side event on: Recent Advances in Biosecurity Education  
13 August 2013, Geneva, Switzerland*

*Unless otherwise specified, the opinions presented here are those of the presenter and may not necessarily reflect the views of the 1540 Committee, its Group of Experts, or the UN Security Council*



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*“Education and training remain important but underutilized tools for promoting peace, disarmament and non-proliferation...”*

*If it is to retain its relevance to the security requirements of peoples and States, disarmament and nonproliferation education and training must not be viewed in a vacuum but rather integrated into that broad perspective.*

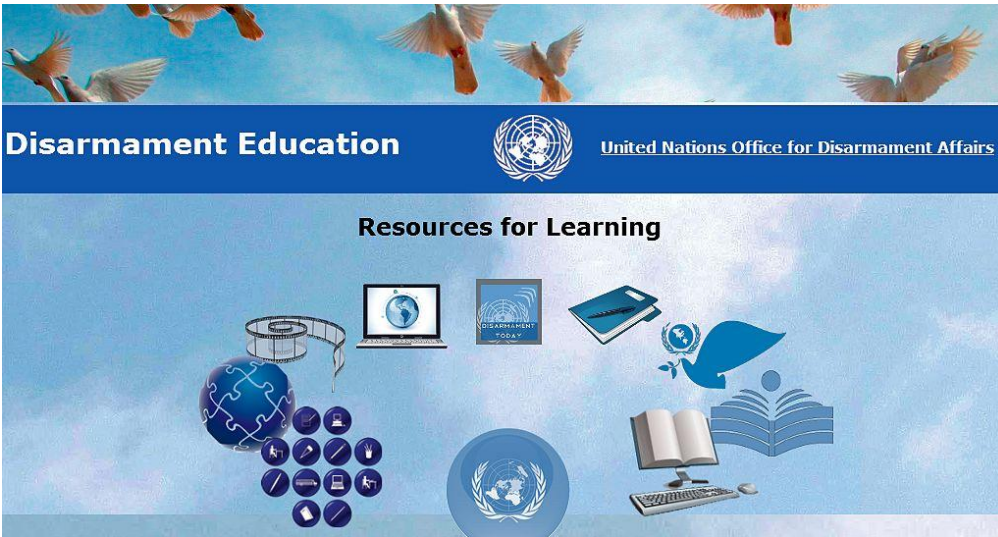
*A global disarmament and non-proliferation culture cannot be accomplished easily or quickly. A sustained effort is required to build communities of disarmament and non-proliferation specialists and concerned individuals. Member States, international organizations, academics and NGOs are essential actors in this long-term effort.*


*– Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124), “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”*



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**Disarmament Education**  **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs**

**Resources for Learning**

Icons representing various learning resources: a globe, a laptop, a book, a leaf, a computer keyboard, and a UN logo.



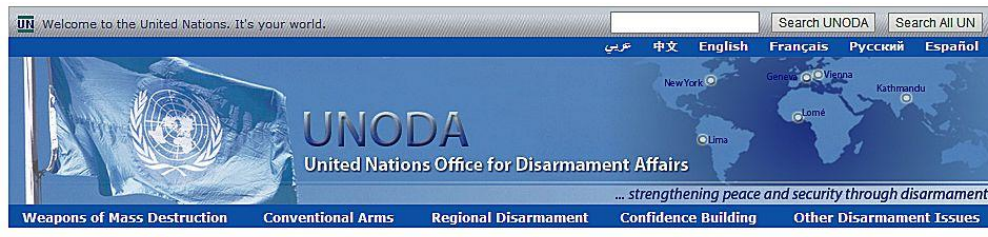
### A World Without Weapons

The United Nations Association (Canada) has created a website, "A World without Weapons," which offers six teacher's guides and student's manuals on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. It also provides evaluation tools for both teachers and students and suggests several ways to get involved to promote the cause of disarmament.



### OPCW/IMC Asser Institute WMD Summer School

This programme is designed for graduate students and professionals interested in pursuing careers in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of WMDs and it will provide a unique insight into treaties, organizations and effective multilateral approaches in WMD disarmament and non-proliferation. It aims to provide participants to get hands-on knowledge from key professionals in the field. Participants will also have the opportunity to benefit from visits to industrial, training, and research facilities engaged in activities relevant to the programme.



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### Online Masters Courses on Applied Dual-Use Biosecurity at the University of Bradford

The course is targeted at improving biosecurity and dual-use awareness and education. It aims to enable and facilitate more bioethical research into 'dual-use' issues, and facilitate best practice that will prevent the misuse of knowledge generated through biomedical research.



### **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

As a result of prolonged efforts by the international community to establish a new legal instrument that would supplement the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, better known as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), opened for signature on 10 April 1972.

### **Biological Weapons Convention**



<http://www.un.org/disarmament/education>

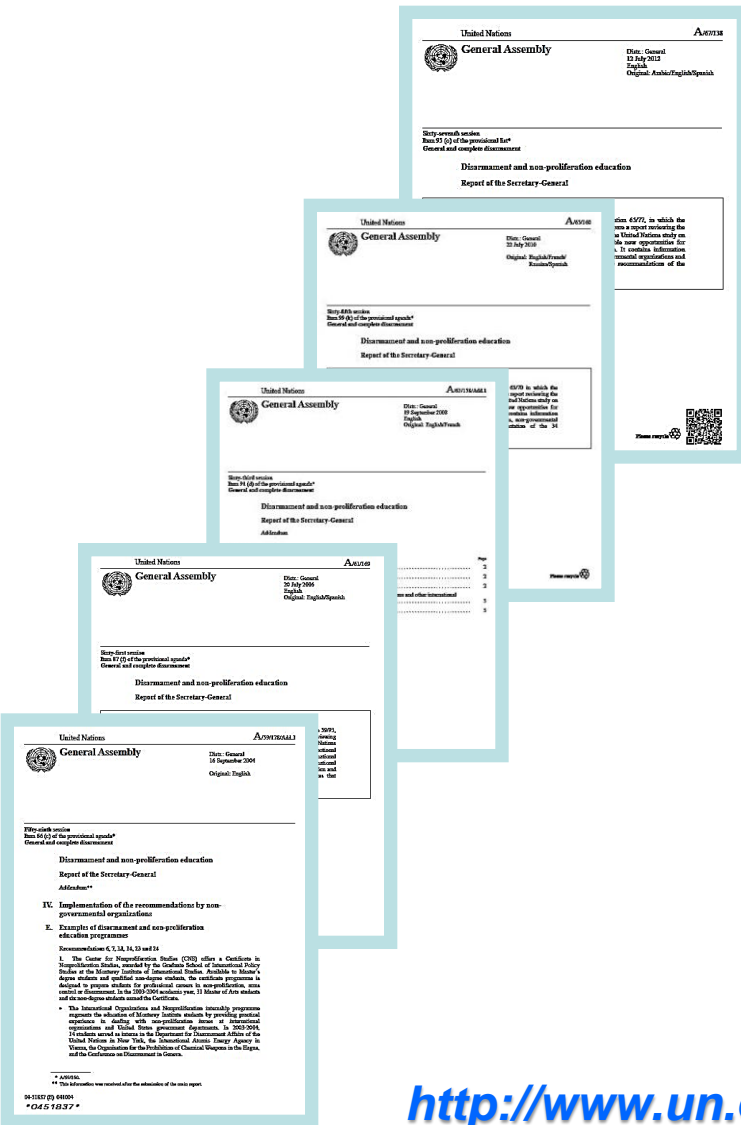
*No educational or training materials specifically on resolution 1540 (2004)*





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- Up to date: five biannual reports on disarmament and non-proliferation education from the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, compiled from submissions from States, international and non-governmental organizations
- The only mention of BWC is in the 2012 report, submission by the University for Peace: *“In 2011, two disarmament seminars were held with a total of 53 students participating, while a workshop on the Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention attracted 55 diplomats over a two-day period”*
- None of the reports mention any initiatives on education, training, or awareness raising on biosafety, biosecurity and the prohibitions and obligations of the BWC (or those of resolution 1540)

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/education/2002UNStudy>

**SG Biannual Reports: underutilized means for biosecurity outreach**



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Resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking “*to non-State actors, in particular for terrorist purposes*”

The Security Council decided “*to establish...a Committee of the Security Council, consisting of all members of the Council, which will, calling as appropriate on other expertise, report to the Security Council for its examination, on the implementation of this resolution...*”.

Resolution 1540 (2004) at a glance: 113 specific prohibitions, 152 controlled activities, at least 8 recommended activities (unofficial count)



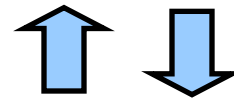
Security Council Meets on Non-Proliferation of WMDs  
UN Photo: Eskinder Debebe, 28 April 2004

**Related materials:** materials, equipment and technology covered by relevant multilateral treaties and arrangements, or included on national control lists, which could be used for the design, development, production or use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery

**Non-State actor:** individual or entity, not acting under the lawful authority of any State in conducting activities which come within the scope of this resolution

**Resolution 1540 (2004): Binding Obligations on All States**

# UN Security Council



UN  
Department  
of Political  
Affairs

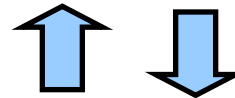
## 1540 Committee

*Monitoring &  
national implementation*

*Assistance*

*Cooperation with international  
organizations, including the Security  
Council committees established pursuant  
to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001)*

*Transparency &  
media outreach*



UN Office for  
Disarmament  
Affairs

## Group of Experts



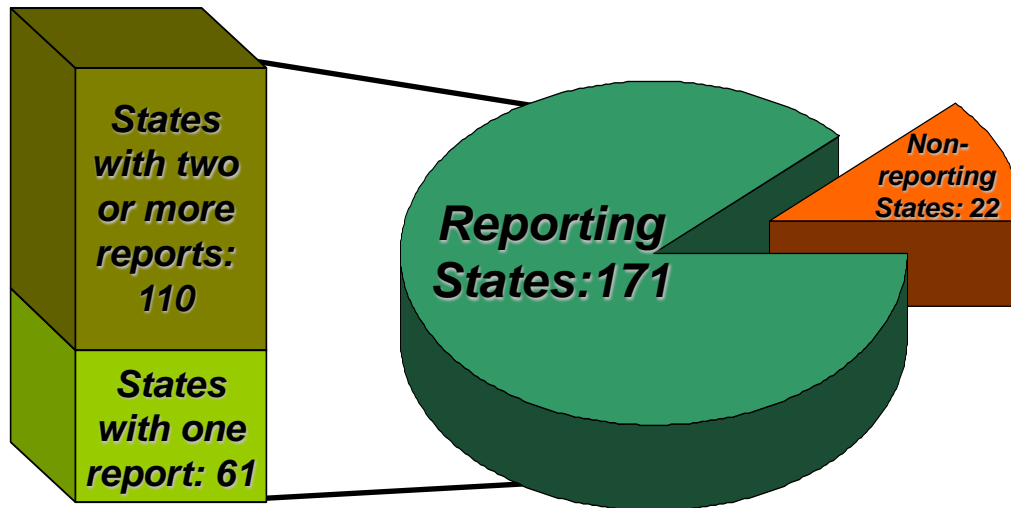
*Regional and sub-regional  
seminars and workshops*



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- States are called upon to submit a first report to the 1540 Committee on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004)
- States that have already submitted such report are encouraged to provide additional information when appropriate or upon the request of the Committee



## **List of States yet to submit a first report as of 08 August 2013**

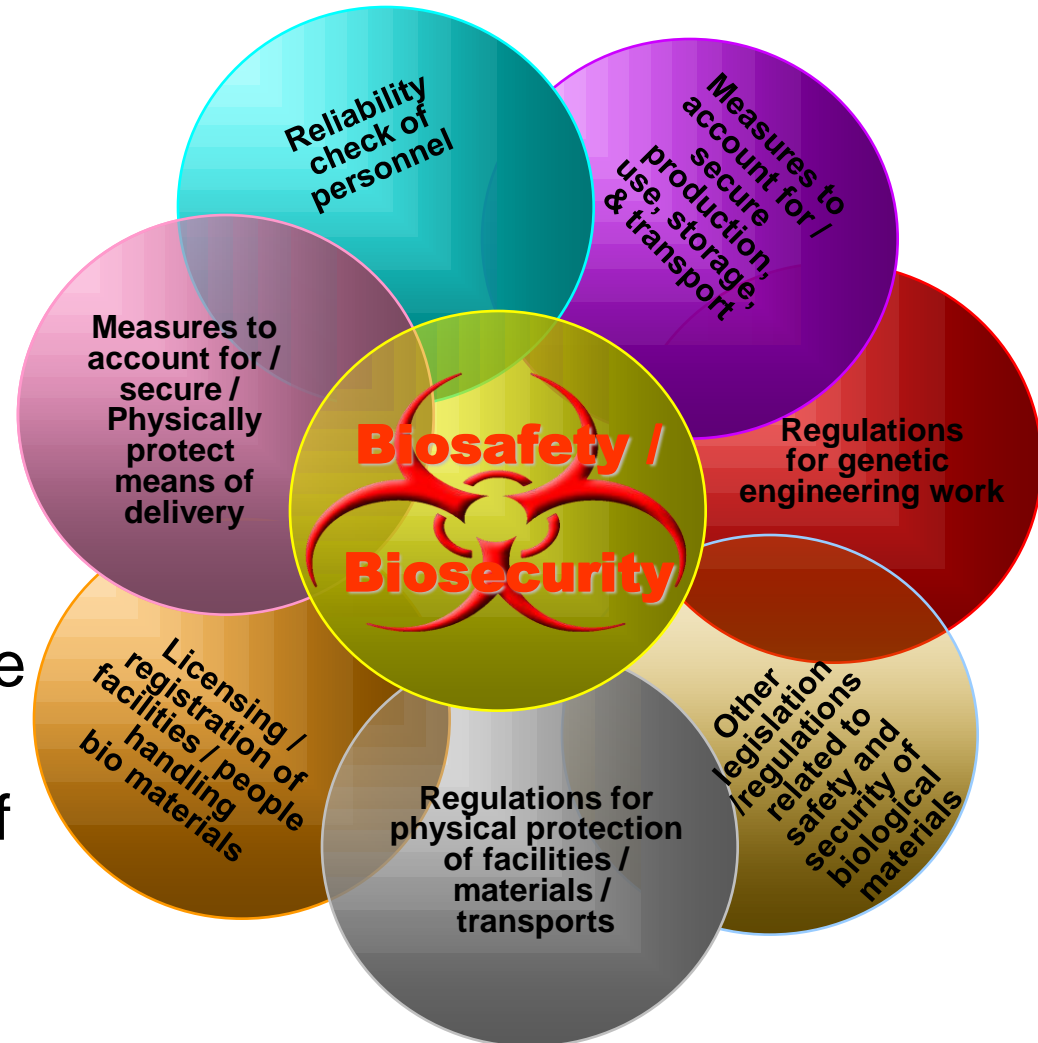
1. Cape Verde
2. Central African Republic
3. Chad
4. Comoros
5. DPRK
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Gambia
8. Guinea
9. Guinea-Bissau
10. Haiti
11. Lesotho
12. Malawi
13. Mali
14. Mauritania
15. Mozambique
16. Sao Tome and Principe
17. Solomon Islands
18. Somalia
19. Swaziland
20. Timor-Leste
21. Zambia
22. Zimbabwe



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- Safeguarding biological agents is a common objective of the Biological Weapons Convention and resolution 1540 (2004)
- Ensuring biosafety and biosecurity is a prerequisite for any life science activity and for keeping the trust of the public and that of the decision makers



*1540 matrix fields*





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- As biotechnology expands to benefit medicine, agriculture, and basic life sciences, the risk of misuse of science & technology will proportionally increase
- Despite the increasing threat posed by extremist violent groups and individuals, trans-national criminal activities, and terrorism (including “lone wolf” type), there is low awareness in the life science community about the international non-proliferation regime
- While the number of educational modules available online increased, none addresses the biosecurity obligations under resolution 1540 (2004)

The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for NEWS, SPORT, WEATHER, WORLD SERVICE, and A-Z INDEX, along with a search bar. The main header reads "BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION". Below this, it indicates the user is in "Americas" and shows the date and time: "Sunday, 18 August, 2002, 02:37 GMT 03:37 UK". The main headline is "Anthrax killer 'is US defence insider'". To the left of the article is a navigation menu with categories: News Front Page, Africa, Americas (highlighted), Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, South Asia, UK, Business, Entertainment, Science/Nature, Technology, and Health. The article features a photograph of Prof Don Foster, an FBI forensic linguistics expert, looking at a laptop. The laptop screen displays the text: "DEATH TO AMERICA. DEATH TO ISRAEL. ALLAH IS GREAT." To the right of the article are two smaller images: one showing a person in a white lab coat working in a laboratory, and another showing a person in a blue protective suit working in a biosafety cabinet. A large red biohazard symbol is overlaid on the right side of the page.



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- There is a perceived need for regionally-customized educational and training materials and programs on resolution 1540 (2004), WMD non-proliferation, and risk management, especially in countries where the formal education system lacks appropriate resources
- Education and awareness raising on resolution 1540 (2004) may be considered for integration into standard training curricula of international, regional and subregional organizations (IROs), governmental institutions (e.g. customs, military academies), and civil society (e.g. universities, industry associations)
- Such educational and training materials and programs may be reported to the 1540 Committee as “*ways to work with and inform industry and the public*” and/or “*experience, lessons learned and effective practices*”

**[Security Council] “calls upon all States...to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws...”**

– Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

**[Security Council] “urges the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004)...”**

– Security Council Resolution 1977 (2011)



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- Resolution 1540 (2004) addresses an entire range of WMDs (nuclear, chemical and biological) as well as related materials and means of delivery
- Resolution 1540 (2004) specifies “what to do” but not “how to do it”
- Complementary actions may be needed to address the whole spectrum of risk
- Internationally harmonized codes of conduct (i.e. HCOC-like agreements) and/or Security Council resolutions/ Presidential Statements, or General Assembly resolutions on the value of promoting a global security culture and responsible conduct of science, may help States identify “soft” security measures toward complementing the legislative/ enforcement framework required by resolution 1540 (2004), for its effective implementation

**Building a security culture and responsible conduct of science**

**Codes of conduct**





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*“The objectives of contemporary disarmament and non-proliferation education & training:*

*(a) To learn how to think rather than what to think about issues;*

*(b) To develop critical thinking skills in an informed citizenry;*

*...*

*(e) To convey relevant information on and to foster a responsive attitude to current and future security challenges ...;*

*(f) To bridge political, regional and technological divides by bringing together ideas, concepts, people, groups and institutions to promote concerted international efforts towards disarmament, non-proliferation and a peaceful and nonviolent world...”.*





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*Dana Perkins, PhD*

*1540 Committee Expert*

*United Nations*

*300 East 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite IN-03074H*

*New York, NY 10017*

*Tel: +1 (917) 367 6023 (office)*

*E-mail: [PerkinsD@un.org](mailto:PerkinsD@un.org)*

Collective e-mail: [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)

Website: [http://www.un.org/sc/1540\\_](http://www.un.org/sc/1540_)

**Contact information**