International Women’s Conference on Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction to non-State Actors

Co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)\(^1\)

Elective Sessions Summary

\(^1\) Funded from the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, with the grants from the European Union, Norway and the United States of America
1. **Background**
   The United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 requires all Member States to enact and enforce effective measures to prevent non-state actors from acquiring nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), relevant materials and delivery systems.

2. **Objectives of the session:**
   - Discuss the state of the global nuclear security regime
   - Discuss the current state of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540
   - Discuss the evolution of non-state actors
   - Discuss nuclear security for emerging technologies
   - Discuss the priorities for the future
   - Discuss the role of women in nuclear security and efforts to increase its representation

3. **Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:**
   - What is the current state of the global nuclear security regime?
   - What are the main achievements in nuclear security globally?
   - What are the emerging threats to nuclear security?
   - What are the main priorities for the future?
   - Have nuclear security measures been well designed for emerging technologies?
   - What do you recommend as initiatives/measures to increase the representation of women in the nuclear security sector?

**Moderator**
- Ms Oum Keltoum Hakam, University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco

**Panelists:**
- Meena Singelee, Head, Geneva Office, IAEA
- Sabariah Ibrahim Kader, Malaysian Nuclear Agency
- Pamela West, CBRN Center, Nigeria
Elective Session 2
Chemical Security and Non-State Actors

1. Background
According to UNSCR 1540, all Member States must adopt legislation and enforce effective measures to prevent non-state actors from proliferating, acquiring, or using chemical weapons and other categories of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems.

2. Objectives of the session:
   - Discuss the current state of chemical security and the implementation of UNSCR 1540
   - Discuss efforts undertaken by the OPCW and its Member States in dealing with non-state actors to counter chemical terrorism
   - Share the portfolios of the women panelists and how they have contributed to advancing chemical security
   - Discuss pathways for women to participate and engage in chemical security efforts to improve female representation

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:
   - What is the current state of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 as it pertains to chemical security? How is the chemical security regime being challenged?
   - What work is being undertaken by the OPCW and its Member States to deter non-state actors and counter chemical terrorism? How is the OPCW and overall chemical security regime (including stakeholders such as governments, industry, academia, media, and civil society) adapting to address the threats posed by non-state actors?
   - What is your story and how have you contributed to chemical nonproliferation?
   - How can women participate and engage in chemical security initiatives? Do you have any recommendations to increase the representation of women in chemical security?

Moderator
- Wardah Amir, National Nuclear Security Administration Graduate Fellow

Speakers:
- Deepti Choubey, Head of Public Affairs and Spokesperson of the OPCW
- Beatrice Maneshi, Founder, Catalystas Consulting
Elective Session 3  
Biological Security and Non-State Actors  

1. Background  

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 requires all Member States to enact and enforce effective measures to prevent non-state actors (NSAs) from acquiring nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), relevant materials and delivery systems. This session will focus on the current status and challenges to ensuring the security of bio-pathogens against non-state actors (NSAs). It will also touch on the role of biosecurity in global health security.  

2. Objectives of the session:  

● Provide the participants with the background on the role of UNSCR 1540 in preventing the access to biological pathogens by NSAs.  
● Provide participants with an understanding of what are the current challenges in securing biopathogens against NSAs.  
● Provide participants with an understanding of the role international organizations play in securing biopathogens against NSAs.  
● Provide participants with an understanding of the role of entities outside government in securing biopathogens against NSAs.  
● Provide participants with an understanding of the role of biosecurity in global health security.  

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:  

● What role do you/your organization play in the preventing the spread of biopathogens by NSAs?  
● What do you see are the challenges in preventing the spread of biopathogens by NSAs?  
● Tell us some of the ways the international community can improve its efforts to prevent the spread of biopathogens by NSAs?  
● In your view, are there lessons learned from the role of UNSCR 1540 in preventing the spread of biopathogens by NSAs?  
● What are some of the current challenges in preventing the use of biopathogens by NSAs in the area of infectious disease?  

Moderator  


Speakers:  

● Raina MacIntyre, Professor of Global Biosecurity and NHMRC Research Fellow, Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia  
● Kadiatu Dao, National Institute of Public Health Research (INRSP), Mali  
● Mona El-Shokry, Ain Shams Medical School, Egypt
1. Background

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 requires all Member States shall take effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons including by developing and maintaining appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law. This session will engage the strategic and operational challenges of export controls in the context of WMD security, and the role of different stakeholders.

2. Objectives of the session:

- Provide the participants with the background on export controls and their role in WMD security.
- Provide participants with an understanding of key strategic and operational challenges in effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to deter the trafficking of WMD.
- Provide participants with an understanding of features of international regimes and multilateral systems in the detection and combating of illicit transfers.
- Provide participants with an understanding of the role of stakeholders in WMD security, including industry, civil society, scientists, and national and international organizations.

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:

- What are the key lessons from your organization’s work in WMD security and export controls?
- What is the source of the main challenges in implementing effective export and border control as a non-proliferation strategy?
- Who are the key stakeholders outside of government in WMD security, and how can disarmament professionals engage in this policy space?

Moderator
Nabila Jamshed, United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, India

Speakers:

- Kiwako Tanaka, 1540 Committee’s Group of Experts
- Eva Gyane, Women in Nuclear Global
- Yasemin Balci, Senior Legal Officer, VERTIC
- Andrea Viski, Director, Strategic Trade Research
Elective Session 5
Fighting WMD Proliferation Financing/Terrorism Financing

1. Background
   Based on the UNSCR 1540, “all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them”.

2. Objective of the session:
   - Discuss the various sources of WMD proliferation and terrorism financing
   - How to conduct a proliferation financing risk assessment?
   - Discuss the international legal framework
   - Discuss the current status of countries implementing international legal framework
   - Discuss programs to support Fighting WMD proliferation and terrorism financing
   - Discuss ways to promote women in this field

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:
   - What is WMD proliferation and terrorism financing and what are the measures to combat them?
   - How to implement 1540 UNSCR with regards to fighting WMD proliferation and terrorism financing?
   - What kind of awareness, educational and training programs are in place to support fighting WMD proliferation and terrorism financing?
   - How to promote women’s participation in fighting WMD proliferation finance?

Moderator
   - Oum Keltoum Hakam, University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco

Possible Panelists:
   - Kiwako Tanaka, 1540 GOE
   - Eva Gyan, WiN Global
   - Andrea Viski, Strategic Trade Research Institute
Elective Session 6
Role of media in preventing the proliferation of WMDs

1. Background
According to UNSCR 1540, all Member States must adopt legislation and enforce effective measures to prevent non-state actors from proliferating, acquiring, or using all categories of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems. This session will focus on the role the media can play in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by preventing the proliferation of WMDs.

2. Objectives of the session:
• Discuss the role of media in WMD nonproliferation, particularly as it relates to non-state actors
• Discuss efforts undertaken by the media in reporting on WMD proliferation and terrorism and how it can help strengthen the nonproliferation regime
• Share the portfolios of the women panelists and how they have contributed to advancing nonproliferation through the media
• Discuss pathways for women to participate and engage through media to advance nonproliferation goals and improve female representation

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:
• Does the media have a role in advancing WMD nonproliferation objectives? Does the media have a role in countering WMD terrorism and security threats? What is the media’s role?
• How can the media deter proliferators from proliferating WMD? How can the media deter non-state actors and counter WMD terrorism? How is the media contributing to the overall nonproliferation regime?
• How can the media report on proliferation and non-state actors responsibly? What are the responsibilities of the media?
• What is your story and how have you contributed to nonproliferation (through the media)?
• How can women participate and engage in nonproliferation efforts via the media? Do you have any recommendations to increase the representation of women in both fields: nonproliferation and the media?
• What are best practices of using media for women in nonproliferation? How can these women improve their digital presence?

Moderator
• Wardah Amir, National Nuclear Security Administration Graduate Fellow

Possible Panelists:
• Deepti Choubey, Head of Public Relations and Spokesperson, OPCW
• Information Officer, CTBTO (tbc)
Elective Session 7
Current Trends and Developments in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear and Radiological Technology

1. Background
Nuclear and radioactive materials are used not only for power generation but also in numerous applications by industry, medicine, agriculture, and science. They contribute to several key Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, their potential misuse by non-state actors requires safety and security measures.

2. Objectives of the session:
- Review most promising developments in the application of nuclear and radiological materials and technologies, particularly for the Global South.
- Discuss challenges in the acquisition, application, and management of these technologies.
- Review success stories in the application and management of a variety of nuclear and radiological materials and technologies.

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:
- Provide examples of several nuclear and radiological materials and technologies that have significant impact on health, environment and development: for example, cancer diagnostics and treatment; control of malaria and other diseases; oil and natural resources exploration and extraction; energy generation, etc.
- What are specific needs in these technologies for the Global South?
- What are success stories in the acquisition, application, and management of these technologies that facilitate both their effective use and compliance with safety and security requirements?
- What are key challenges in the acquisition and management of these technologies? How they can be overcome?

Moderator:
- Elena Sokova, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Panelists:
- Meena Singelee, Head, Geneva Office, IAEA
- Sabariah Ibrahim Kader, Malaysian Nuclear Agency
- Amira Elabd, Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority, Egypt
Challenges of Non-proliferation of WMD in conflict situations

1. **Background:** There are atrocities currently occurring across the globe. Since 2005, normative gender roles have changed, and women are increasingly becoming more effective advocates for themselves and their communities. Providing essential mechanisms, such as through this conference, further enables women to receive real-world guidance, mentorship and tools to advocate against the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in conflict situations fulfilling the obligation of member states and civil society to Resolution 1540 adopted by the UN Security Council in 2004.

2. **Objectives and outcomes of the session:**
   - Identify challenges faced by communities in regions where there is conflict and a threat to peace and security.
   - Examine where and how those challenges can be overcome in order to strengthen the non-proliferation of WMD and SALW in impacted regions.
   - Propose ideas for capacity building efforts that will enable and empower women to effectively coordinate and apply their capabilities toward achieving non-proliferation objectives during pre/post times of conflict and when they are most at risk.

3. **Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:**
   - How do you view the participation of women in addressing the challenges faced in regions of conflict?
   - How can women, in their respective capacities and roles, support global non-proliferation goals regarding non-state actors and their acquisition, development, trafficking, and/or use of WMD & SALW?
   - Can you suggest possible ways to incorporate an equitable gender approach to women participating in the non-proliferation of WMD and SALW to non-state actors in conflict situations?
   - Can you suggest how we can begin to address these issues and create a working document that will also consider that in conflict situations there are specific violent harms perpetuated on women? How can we turn this around and empower them?

**Moderator:**
Jennifer Ambe, Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment (GET) Consortium & Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS)

**Panelists:**
- Beatrice Maneshi, Catalystas Consulting
- Kadiatou Dao, National Institute of Public Health, Mali
Elective Session 9

Career Boost: Job Opportunities in International Organizations

This session will be run by the Office of Human Resources Management, United Nations

More information will made available later
Elective Session 10
The role of data in the non-proliferation of WMD: Prevention of Bio-violence

1. Background:

Resolution 1540 adopted by the UN Security Council gives the Council the authority to deal with threats to international peace and security with obligations to member states to develop and enforce measures against the proliferation of WMD. In recent times, it has been evident that certain factors can affect the detection and containment of an emerging infectious disease epidemic. Collection of data through efficient surveillance systems is key for analysis which leads to the ability to curb any potential outbreak. Certain characteristics can be used to identify epidemiological, behavioral and other factors through information and data sources which could indicate deliberate bio-violence.

2. Objectives of the session:

- To discuss how data, information and AI can be used to prevent and/or curb the infliction of harm through biological means; and to examine its role by discussing an equitable gender approach for participation with a focus on the prevention of bioviolence and non-proliferation.
- To examine the governance of biological data to come up with recommendations for a framework on the prevention of bio-violence.
- Discuss the roles of international organizations to support and establish surveillance systems in countries with limited resources.
- Current challenges encountered that inhibits the collection and sharing of data for peaceful purposes.
- How can we encourage or promote sharing of data without negatively impacting economy or tourism?

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session

- How can women from the global south play an important role in the following areas?
- How can the lack of awareness on biosecurity concepts in LMIC’s be addressed?
- What are the current practices surrounding the access and use of surveillance data, information and emerging technologies in the non-proliferation of biological WMD; how do these practices protect and secure biorepositories or biobanks in research facilities from theft and/or misuse?
- What are the challenges in establishing stringent biosecurity measures in countries with limited resources?
- What is recommended as measures that can be adopted by countries such as those with poor infrastructure?

Moderator:
- Jennyfer Ambe, Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment (GET) Consortium & Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS)
Speakers:

- Mona El-Shokry, Ain Shams University, Egypt
- Raina MacIntyre (NHMRC) Biosecurity Lead, Australia
- Participants
1. Background

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 requires all Member States to enact and enforce effective measures to prevent non-state actors (NSAs) from acquiring nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), relevant materials and delivery systems. A fundamental aspect of the conference is to empower women to be involved in these issues and to understand how they can be part of the implementation of goals of preventing WMD terrorism and UNSCR 1540.

2. Objectives of the session:

- Provide the participants with the background on the role of women in preventing the acquisition of WMDs by NSAs.
- Provide participants with an understanding of what are the current challenges in women being involved in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and in preventing the acquisition of WMDs by NSAs.
- Provide participants with an understanding of the current activities and engagements by women in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and in preventing the acquisition of WMDs by NSAs.
- Provide participants with an understanding of what they can do in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and in preventing the acquisition of WMDs by NSAs.

3. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:

- What role do you/your organization play in promoting the role of women in preventing the spread of biopathogens by NSAs?
- What do you see are the challenges women face in this area?
- Tell us some of the ways the role of women can be improved in this area?
- In your view, are there lessons learned from the role of women in preventing the spread of WMDs by NSAs and implementing UNSCR 1540?
- What should we be doing going forward to increase the role of women in this area?

Moderator


Speakers:

- Kadiatou Dao, National Institute of Public Health, Mali
- Soledad Urruela, Regional 1540 Coordinator, OAS
Elective Session 12-15
Group Discussion: Identifying and Addressing Challenges in Implementing UNSCR 1540 in the Global South

1. Background

Each region of the global south has unique characteristics and challenges. This also applies to issues associated with the implementation of UNSCR 1540. This session will aim to identify and address these challenges in the regions of the global south from the perspective of women who live and work in those regions. This will lend a gender and regional perspective to important issues on identifying and addressing the regional difficulties with implementing UNSCR 1540 such as; human capacity, technological advancements, stakeholder and government buy-in, organizational and financial constraints with the aim of providing women the necessary tools and continued dialogue.

2. Objectives of the session:
   - Define the risks associated with a possible Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear threat in the regions of the global south.
   - Identify challenges in implementing UNSCR-1540 in each of the regions of the global south to mitigate these risks.
   - Develop suggestions for addressing these challenges (suggested strategies and possible outcomes).
   - Examine the challenges with a view to propose how to strengthen the non-proliferation of WMD and SALW

Post conference:

   - Develop a toolkit from the results of this session.
   - Provide women from the global south with the knowledge and tools to assist with implementing UNSCR 1540 (beyond an opportunity to network).

3. Session Format
   - Duration: 1:30
   - 4 groups within each session (12, 13, 14, 15) - led by a moderator
     - 4 participant volunteers to lead a group each within each of the sessions. The main moderators will move from group to group to assist and support.
     - Seating arrangements: 4 group tables labelled (1-4) or colour coded.

4. Key questions to be asked to the Speakers prior to the session:
   - What are the common and specific regional challenges in the global south?
   - How high on respective regional governments agendas is the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and how can women advocate for this to be a priority for policy makers and governments?
• Are there emerging issues that add to the challenges already faced in implementing UNSCR 1540?
• How can professionals and experts in the field transfer the knowledge gleaned from this conference to other women, organizations and networks?
• How can women generate and share knowledge and what tools can be used?

Moderators:
● Elena Sokova, Executive Director, VCDNP
● Nabila Jamshed, United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, India
● Jennyfer Ambe, The GET Consortium and WCAPS
● Oum Keltoum Hakam, University of Ibn Tofail