

Report of the Dominican Republic on the application of resolution 63/60 entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”

1. In response to the requirements of resolution 63/60, we report that no terrorism-related activities have been detected in the Dominican Republic. In recent years, the authorities have intensified their fight to prevent, detect, combat and eradicate acts of terrorism, always with the valuable assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, especially its Terrorism Prevention Branch, and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.

2. The Dominican Republic, acknowledging the enormous destructive potential of the use of nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological weapons for terrorist purposes and, responding to the call by the United Nations made in General Assembly resolution 63/60 of 2 December 2008, reaffirms its interest in the adoption of measures to prevent the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. In that regard, it is important to indicate to the international community and to international organizations that the Dominican Republic neither possesses nor intends to possess weapons of mass destruction. Possession of such weapons has never been part of its national defence strategy.

The Dominican Republic is a State party to the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Some of the national measures adopted by the Dominican Republic are described below:

(a) In July 2008, the National Congress passed the General Counter-Terrorism Act, thereby creating the legislative framework to combat a criminal phenomenon that is of concern to all nations and that undermines democracy, fundamental human rights, security and the economic and social development of the international community. The purpose of the Act is to define the behaviours that constitute acts of terrorism and other related acts, and to establish the punishments applicable to the perpetrators and co-perpetrators of such offences, and their accomplices, as well as the mechanisms and instruments necessary to prevent, stop and eradicate acts of terrorism, while fully complying with international law.

(b) The Dominican Republic is a State party to 12 of the 16 universal counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The four remaining conventions are in the process of being approved by the National Congress.

(c) Recently, the Dominican Republic became a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which entered into force on 26 April 2009.

(d) Because the country is a strategic point for international trade and tourism, measures have been implemented to reinforce customs controls to prevent terrorist organizations from acquiring these weapons, their delivery systems and the technologies to manufacture them from persons and institutions located in the

country. The armed forces, through the deployment of their special forces to ensure border security (the Specialized Airport Security Force, the Specialized Port Security Force and the Specialized Border Security Force), inspect and search luggage, vehicles and containers to detect illicit trafficking in dual-use goods and materials intended for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

(e) The agencies that carry out intelligence operations and analyse counter-terrorism information in the various State security mechanisms have been strengthened with training programmes on ways of detecting the proliferation of the weapons in question.

(f) To prevent all forms of terrorism, the importation for private sale of firearms and of spare parts and ammunition for them was prohibited in Presidential Decree No. 309-06, which became effective on 24 July 2006.

(g) Application was intensified of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

4. In addition to the implementation of the aforementioned measures, the Dominican Republic has organized and participated in important activities in the areas of institutional strengthening, training and international cooperation to combat terrorism, including the following:

(a) High-level official mission by the Dominican Republic to the Terrorism Prevention Branch in Vienna in 2006, with the participation of high-level Government representatives concerned with the work of the United Nations. One outcome of the mission was the adoption of a plan of action that details activities to coordinate technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the Dominican Republic in various counter-terrorism-related areas.

(b) In 2007, the Dominican Republic hosted the Ministerial Conference for Caribbean Countries on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, organized jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, in cooperation with the Government of the Dominican Republic. The Conference's outcomes were the Declaration of Santo Domingo and its Plan of Action.

(c) Continuing its efforts to promote international cooperation to combat terrorism, the Dominican Republic hosted the Specialized Training in the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and its Financing: Legal Framework and International Cooperation Instruments, organized by the Office of the Attorney-General with the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Dominican Republic's experiences in the fight against acts of terrorism were discussed at the meeting, which was attended by high-level international experts, including the Prosecutors-General of Colombia and Costa Rica.

(d) Through the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Government of the Dominican Republic recently received a technical assistance mission to support compliance with its obligations pursuant to Security Council and General Assembly counter-terrorism resolutions. The mission assisted the Government in the preparation of the latter's report on Security Council

resolution 1540 (2004) related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of non-State actors. In addition, as a result of the mission, an Inter-institutional Commission was created, comprising the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior and Police, of the Armed Forces and of the Environment and the Office of the Attorney-General, among others.

(e) The Meeting of the Group of Experts of the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Trafficking in Drugs, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean was held in Santo Domingo on 17 February 2009.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
23 July 2009
