

*Translated from Spanish*

## **Report of Mexico on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction**

### **Multilateral measures**

Mexico considers the strengthening of border controls to be particularly important for preventing non-State agents from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Mexico, in the context of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), promoted the adoption of the Declaration on Strengthening Border Controls and International Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism at the ninth regular session of that body. Furthermore, Mexico has assumed the presidency of CICTE for 2009 and in that context has worked to promote activities that strengthen border controls.

The National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission (CNSNS) maintains constant contact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the subject of safeguards and physical nuclear security, in order to comply with the instruments in that area to which Mexico is a party and in order to prevent the diversion of nuclear materials to terrorist groups.

### **Bilateral measures**

In the bilateral sphere, on 15 April 2009 the Ministry of the Navy signed a Letter of Intent with the United States Northern Command and with the United States Coast Guard, in which the signatory parties recognize the need to strengthen information sharing and cooperation between their organizations with regard to maritime security and protection in order to improve their mutual capacity for operational coordination. The aim is to establish and share standardized operating procedures for the prevention and response to incidents or unlawful acts that could threaten the maritime security of our respective countries.

In addition, CNSNS has collaborated closely with the General Customs Administration on the megaport project being conducted with the United States, the goal of which is to install radioactive and nuclear material detection equipment at Mexico's main cargo ports, in particular Veracruz, Manzanillo, Altamira and Lázaro Cárdenas. With this project, the two institutions intend to detect illicit trafficking in radioactive sources and nuclear materials.

### **National measures**

Mexico has made efforts to strengthen its warning system and system for monitoring information on manifests and airway bills. In accordance with article 20 of the Customs Act, carriers involved in imports and exports of goods are obliged to submit cargo manifests and other documents and also to submit that information electronically prior to arrival of the goods in Mexico, in order to generate information that can be used to identify and alert customs posts to potential risks of illegal trafficking of precursor chemicals, arms, drugs and marketable securities, and piracy. Prohibited goods can be detected by X-ray and gamma-ray equipment, by canine units (dogs and their handlers) and at megaports.

Mexico understands that interdepartmental coordination is necessary for strengthening border controls. In that connection, on 7 March 2008 the Ministry of the Navy and the Tax Administration Service signed the basic coordination documents for coordination of their efforts and allocation of human resources for the joint implementation of monitoring, surveillance and security measures at Mexico's maritime customs posts in order to ensure national security and public safety within their respective areas of competence.

The General Customs Administration and the Ministry of the Navy have made additional efforts in 2009. On 21 January 2009, the Ministry of the Navy signed a coordination and cooperation agreement with the General Customs Administration in order to work together to improve national surveillance, monitoring, protection and security in special tax areas, customs houses and ports.

In 2003, CNSNS began its close collaboration with the General Customs Administration to participate in a training programme in the identification and detection of radioactive materials for front-line officials at the forty-nine customs posts; the International Atomic Energy Agency provided support for some courses, either by organizing national or regional courses for Latin America or by sending experts in illicit trafficking. There was also cooperation from experts from the United States. Specialists from the General Customs Administration are currently being trained in responding to emergencies involving radioactive material.

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