

Information Note¹

Event: Regional Workshop: Implementation of resolution 1540: perspectives and effective practices in Latin America

Organizers: Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Government of Mexico

Date and Venue: 25-26 June 2019, Mexico City, Mexico

Participants: Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Experts and other representatives from US Department of State, Biological Weapons Convention-Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Stimson Center, Washington DC.

Background

- Operational Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016) encourages States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the Committee;

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee nor the organisers or participants in the event.

- Operational paragraph 22 of resolution 2325 (2016) encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests;
- Operational Paragraph 23 of resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

Highlights and Discussions

The Workshop was opened on behalf of the Mexican Secretariat for Foreign Affairs (SRE) by Dr Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete, SRE Director General for the United Nations. He noted that proliferation of WMD remained a global threat. Technological and scientific advances meant that it was not possible to be sure that the region would remain immune in future. Resolution 1540 (2004) was a key element of international efforts to combat the threat. The Organisation of American States (OAS) was committed to 1540 and was making significant efforts to promote full implementation of the resolution in the region. Assistance to States in the region was important in order to deepen understanding of the requirements and improve implementation. Interactive workshops such as this one, involving experts from States and international organisations, were very helpful to improving information sharing, coordination and other effective practices. The Director General noted that the new government in Mexico was committed to further strengthening links with the rest of Latin America.

The OAS organizer set the scene for the subsequent discussions by noting that although Latin America was not affected by WMD at present, potential existed for illicit trafficking of WMD. Dual-use goods and intangible technologies were increasingly at risk. A representative from UNODA described ODA support to 1540 implementation. An Expert from the 1540 Group described 1540 requirements, in particular relating to proliferation financing. Experts from BWC-

ISU and from UNODC described the support provided by their organisations to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States.

Participants worked through a table-top exercise, prepared by a 1540 Expert, designed to assist preparation of National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs).

The workshop then turned to challenges of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with a series of presentations and discussions of lessons learned by individual States and effective practices in the region. The day finished with a detailed presentation on potential biothreats in the region.

The second day of the workshop included further presentations by national representatives on effective practices in implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and presentations and discussions of peer reviews. The final session of the workshop focused on assistance and included a presentation of a database of 1540-related assistance programmes and providers created by the Stimson Center in Washington DC.

This was a well-organised and notably interactive workshop. Participants took full use of opportunities to discuss 1540 issues on a regional basis and welcomed the OAS role in this respect. A number of themes emerged, including the benefits of a regional approach to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); that implementation of 1540 requirements could contribute to areas of activity important to States' wider economic developments, such as development of better frontier controls; that effective industry outreach was essential, and that States were paying increasing attention to controls on financing.

Discussions of effective procedures highlighted aspects of NAPs and assistance relevant to the region. It is notable that of the four 1540 peer reviews conducted to date, two have involved States in Latin America.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.