

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** Workshop on biosafety and biosecurity in the framework of resolution 1540 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
- Organizer:** Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Date and Venue:** 14-15 November 2019, Bogota, Colombia
- Participants:** National representatives; international, regional and national organisations

### Background

- Resolution 2325 (2016) in its Operative Paragraph (OP) 12 addresses all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) expresses in its OP 14 that States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate control over related materials;
- Resolution 2325 (2016), in OP 23 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);
- On 2 October 2019, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the OAS sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a member of the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee to participate in the workshop on biosafety and biosecurity in the framework of resolution 1540 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

### Highlights

The Workshop was opened by Dr. Franklin Prieto on behalf of the Director of the General National Institute of Health. He expressed that Colombia is vulnerable due to a wide range of biological risks. For that reason, he said that they need to strengthen their capacities in order to

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

detect the threats but, unfortunately, he expressed that they do not have enough resources to do that. H.E. Álvaro Enrique Ayala Meléndez, Director of Multilateral Political Affairs also stated the full commitment of Colombia with a comprehensive resolution 1540 (2004) implementation demonstrated by the submission of a National Action Plan to the Committee in 2014 which is currently under review. He also made reference to the peer review done with Chile in 2017 which contributed to the national resolution 1540 (2004) implementation.

Day 1 of the workshop included presentations on resolution 1540 (2004) obligations, biosafety biosecurity and biorisk management concepts described by different international organizations and national presentations on the Biological Weapons Convention national implementation.

The second day was devoted to presentations on biosecurity beyond the laboratory, export controls of dual use goods, emphasizing in the biological related materials and a session of question and answers on the topics developed during the workshop.

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).