

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

**Event:** Workshop on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

**Organizers:** Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS)

**Date and Venue:** 2-3 December 2019, Panama City, Panama

**Participants:** Government of Panama: Representatives from Ministries and Departments, including Foreign Affairs, Interior, Public Security, National Security, Trade and Industry, Defence, Health, Customs, Public Prosecutors Office, Banking Supervisors, and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

Representatives from the governments of Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

Representatives from the Stimson Center (an NGO)

### Highlights

The objective of the Workshop was to bring together officials from the wide range of Panamanian government departments involved in implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The Director General of the National Customs Authority of Panama opened the Workshop on behalf of the Government of Panama by stating that weapons of mass destruction (WMD) represented a threat globally. She noted that Resolution 1540 (2004) was focused on measures to counter the threat. Panama was committed to full

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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 nor the organisers or participants in the event.

implementation and the Customs Authority was at the forefront of Panama's efforts in this respect. The Authority worked with customs services in the region to promote both commerce and security.

The Vice-Minister of Health of the Government of Panama, speaking next, noted the complexity of issues arising from rapid advances of sciences and technology. Panama wanted to be seen as a regional leader in combating the threat of terrorist use of WMD. The authorities were increasing their vigilance, developing better legislation, improving their detection capability, including by setting up new analytical laboratories, and stepping up training of officials. The Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation of the MFA noted that Panama's National Action Plan, 2018-2021, was intended to build capacity and improve the legislative basis to combat the threat.

An official from the Panamanian MFA described the background to approval of the resolution by the Security Council in 2004, following the discovery of the activities of the A Q Khan network, and more recent relevant incidents such as thefts of CBRN materials. The official noted that nearly all such incidents involved materials rather than weapons. He drew a distinction between the WMD threat from terrorists and from other types of non-State actors operating for profit. He noted the challenges of distinguishing proliferation-related transactions of goods and technologies from legitimate trade.

The Workshop continued with a series of presentations by 1540 Experts and by officials from the governments of Panama, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic, and by representatives of the Stimson Center. Presentations were based on the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), national reports, country matrices, formulation and implementation of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans, Peer Reviews and 1540 assistance procedures.

During the discussions a number of themes arose relating to formulation and implementation of 1540 National Action Plans, amongst which were the need regularly to reinforce coordination mechanisms, the challenges of ensuring all relevant departments and agencies engaged fully with the process, resources, and importance of engagement by the political leadership.

**Additional Comments**

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