

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop on Implementing Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
- Organizers:** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in cooperation with the Government of Costa Rica as a host country; funded by the European Union, the Governments of Norway and the United States
- Date and Venue:** 8-10 September 2009; San Jose, Costa Rica
- Participants:** *States:* Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, as well as Argentina, United States and the European Union;
- International organizations and entities:* Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU/BWC), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Integration System (SICA), Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Organization of American States (OAS), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), World Customs Organization (WCO), 1540 Committee members and experts, and UNODA and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), 1540 Committee members and experts;
- Civil society:* Centre for International Trade and Security (CITS), Henry L. Stimson Centre, Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society, Japan Science and Technology Agency (RISTEX), Verification Research, Training & Information Centre (VERTIC)

1. Objectives

- promote awareness of the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) and its full implementation;
- facilitate sharing of experience on practical issues relating to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly border and export controls;
- explore regional cooperation that can be used to improve the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- encourage cooperation arrangements through assistance programmes and the 1540 assistance template;
- conduct bilateral consultations with the participating States to discuss specific assistance requests and encourage the submission of additional information, such as a summary action plan for implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

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

2. Background

The workshop held in Costa Rica was the fourth in a series of UNODA-organized regional workshops to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The workshop focused primarily on the main elements of border and export controls and was specifically tailored for border, customs and regulatory officials from the participating Central American states. It aimed at encouraging experience-sharing in related areas and at the identification of specific capacity-building measures that are responsive to regional and specific national requirements. The workshop served as a platform for raising awareness of available offers or programs of technical assistance.

The workshop's program included presentations of national mechanisms to monitor export, re-export, transit and trans-shipments, presentations on international and regional efforts and approaches of international and regional organizations to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), on available assistance programs to facilitate the implementation of the resolution as well as discussions on trade facilitation and security, risk assessment and management, examination techniques and technical detection capabilities and cooperation with industry and the academic community.

3. Highlights

The workshop provided an opportunity for participating countries to share experience on national mechanisms to monitor export, re-export, transit and transshipment and to exchange information on other steps taken to implement resolution 1540 (2004), in particular in the area of border and export controls.

In his opening statement, the Chairman of the 1540 Committee underlined the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) as a barrier between non-State actors, acting in particular for terrorism purposes, and weapons of mass destruction. The Chairman highlighted the importance of enhancing border, export, transit and transshipment controls to prevent illicit trafficking of materials, which can be used for the proliferation of such weapons.

Representatives from the judiciary and law enforcement raised the necessity to have a complete and consistent legal framework and, at the operational level, an integrated process of export licensing and a communication network for sharing information and experiences with other countries. The participants also discussed the importance of cooperation with industry as a way to increase awareness among the exporters and collect relevant information on goods, routes and end-users of sensitive materials.

The workshop benefited from contributions from Argentina, the United States and the European Union, as well as the CARICOM regional coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The participation of international, regional, sub-regional and non-governmental organizations offered numerous opportunities for experience sharing and dialogue as well as cooperation for capacity building.

4. Bilateral consultations

Bilateral consultations were held between a delegation of each participating Member State and 1540 Committee Members and experts, focusing on next steps of implementation and, as appropriate, identifying areas of cooperation, including assistance.

5. Additional comments

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