

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic
to the United Nations

N.U. 103/2009

New York, 17 March 2009

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the recent activities of the Argentine Republic in compliance with the obligations arising from Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1810 (2008).

The Argentine Republic submitted its first report on 26 October 2004 (S/AC.44/2004/(02)/13) and updates in December 2005 and July 2007. In so doing, it demonstrated its firm commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; it is, to date, the only Latin American country that is a member of all five export control regimes (the Australia Group (AG), the Zangger Committee, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)).

The Argentine Republic is convinced that an effective export control system must be based on four fundamental pillars: (1) a transparent, standardized national system for granting export licenses; (2) genuine compliance with or enforcement of the export control legislation currently in force; (3) efforts to increase the business community's awareness of the system's importance for industrial development and the security of international trade; and (4) close regional cooperation.

National action plan

To that end, with support from the Department of Energy of the United States of America, Argentina has established a national Working Group for training in the identification of sensitive goods (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises (CIME)). The Working Group is made up of the relevant ministerial bodies with responsibility for various aspects of monitoring (the Military and Dual-Use Material Export Control Committee, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, the Scientific and Technical Research for Defence Institute, The National Space Activities Committee, the General Customs Administration, the National Naval Command, the Argentine Gendarmerie, the National Intelligence School and the National Criminal Intelligence Department). In 2008, when this course was last offered (taught by Argentine instructors), the participants included invited colleagues from Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay and observers from South Africa.

The Working Group which is responsible for holding seminars on the four relevant technologies, is organizing one workshop on outreach to businesses and another on end-users and end-user declarations, to be held in 2009. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of International Security and Nuclear and Space Affairs is the focal point for the aforementioned CIME and is responsible for coordinating all inter-agency activities.

Regional action plan

The Argentine Republic is convinced that effective control of the transfer of dual-use technologies and materials is possible only through specific harmonization of legislative and operational efforts at the regional level. It hosted an Organization of American States (OAS) seminar on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), held in Buenos Aires on 13 and 14 May 2008. That seminar included participants from 22 countries of the region and representatives of various relevant international bodies.

The success of this meeting led to the establishment of a Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) working group on weapons of mass destruction, which held its first meeting in Buenos Aires in July 2008 and its second meeting in Brasilia in December 2008. The Argentine Republic mentioned this regional group in the national report which it submitted at the Ninth International Export Control Congress, held in Vavtat, Croatia, from 20 to 22 October 2008.

This plan of action, which we initiated at a regional integration forum, is an important step forward in the progressive implementation of effective measures within the framework established in resolution 1540 (2004) and, in particular, in the

development of specific action plans as required by paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008).

In order to pursue, and to ensure genuine compliance with, the obligations arising from resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1810 (2008), the Argentine Republic offers its good offices as a collaborator in the regional implementation of action plans and proposes that it should coordinate the holding of a workshop on the topic, to which all Latin American countries would be invited, in late 2009 with the goal of using local experience as a lesson learned in order to promote and propose similar activities in the other regional groups (such as the Group of Andean Countries and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)). The inclusion of various international organizations (such as OEA, the 1540 Committee, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)) in this workshop will be essential to creation of a productive work forum.

The workshop will facilitate the exchange of proposals and lessons learned between countries in the region in order to improve compliance with their obligations with a view to the possible harmonization of the necessary control measures and requirements, and thus to facilitate and ensure commodity exchange in the exercise of international trade.

In order to organize this workshop and/or other related activities, Argentina would welcome logistical and financial support from the 1540 Committee.

In addition, the Argentine Republic offers its experience with the progressive implementation of the various disarmament and non-proliferation measures to the 1540 Committee with a view to the possibility of reporting on these activities at multilateral or national forums.

In the hope of a favourable response, and in appreciation of the work and commitment that the Committee has shown through its ongoing support for such undertakings, I ask that you accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Jorge Argüello
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Jorge Urbina

Chairman

Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)