

Organization of American States
Inter American Committee Against Terrorism

Strengthening UNSCR 1540 Implementation:
The Role of the Organization of American States

Delivered by Violanda Botet
Deputy Executive Secretary of OAS/CICTE

October 9, 2024

Members of the 1540 Committee, State Representatives and Experts,

It's a great pleasure to be present here and share some insights on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in the Americas.

The **Organization of American States** has supported implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 since 2005 and has played a leading role in this field.

In 2010, OAS Member States mandated the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism -- otherwise known as “CICTE” by its Spanish acronym -- to launch a specific **1540 program** to help implement the resolution’s provisions in the Western Hemisphere.

To further that decision, CICTE concluded **several strategic partnerships** including one with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as well as with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and other international organizations to promote 1540 implementation.

In 2017, CICTE/OAS further strengthened its commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) by appointing a full-time **Regional 1540 Coordinator**, who is Marcelo Martinez, seated here behind me. I encourage you to reach out to him regarding our efforts here in the region.

In recent years, CICTE has focused in part on supporting member states' efforts to implement UNSCR 1540 in various ways. First, we have made efforts to provide legislative **and technical assistance** to key states. In doing so, we help countries analyze their legislative frameworks to identify gaps. We also assist states in their efforts to draft laws and regulations and develop National Action Plans. In addition, we help build capacity and promote awareness of these issues through national and regional training courses and workshops, both for the public and private sectors.

Another important way in which CICTE has promoted and facilitated regional and bilateral cooperation among Latin American States has been to assist in the implementation of **peer review exercises**. These exercises are a unique opportunity for direct discussion and exchange of best practices with relevant experts. Peer review exercises permit states to sit down together and help each other in a respectful and reciprocal manner. CICTE has organized peer review exercises bilaterally and trilaterally in recent years.

For example, CICTE has held peer reviews between Chile and Colombia in 2017, Paraguay and Uruguay in 2019, Dominican Republic and Panama in 2019 and in 2002; Mexico, Brazil and Chile in 2023 and Ecuador and Paraguay in 2023.

CICTE also has organized **bilateral cooperation meetings** between Brazil and Peru this year, where matters related to Resolution 1540 and the Biological Weapons Convention were discussed.

All these exercises have served to promote more effective inter-agency coordination within each State. It also has helped to establish spaces for dialogue and exchange of experiences among OAS Member States.

The initiatives CICTE has undertaken have achieved considerable success, leading to the preparation of numerous **national reports** submitted to the 1540 Committee which reflects these states' commitment to the 1540 process.

CICTE's efforts to provide legislative assistance; to facilitate bilateral and trilateral peer review exercises; to support bilateral cooperation meetings among member states and promote the importance of submitting national reports to the 1540 committee – all these steps reflect the **OAS' commitment** to support non-proliferation measures related to WMD-related commodities and technologies.

Based on these experiences, we believe there is here is **potential for doing more work** in this area. For example, many states in Latin America have expressed a keen interest in receiving technical training in various aspects related to resolution 1540 implementation. They have expressed an interest in more training, for example, designed to prevent and counter illicit traffic of dual use goods and more training to protect and secure WMD related materials.

It is also important to **build local experience** which in turn and help encourage the adoption of robust measures to implement UNSCR 1540. Building national expertise enhances national capacities and helps empower local decision-makers. It also helps compensate when inevitably governmental authorities turn over and new personnel come into national offices.

The role of international organizations such as the OAS is essential in this regard. CICTE helps states in their efforts to keep the issue of international and regional security alive in public debates and helps **promote informed**

decisions. These collaborative efforts also demonstrate the critical role of promoting effective inter-agency coordination within each state and the benefits of fostering dialogue between the public and the private sectors.

\

By doing so, CICTE helps Western Hemisphere states **progressively advance** in implementing their obligations contained in the key operative paragraphs of the 1540 Resolution.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to review some of CICTE's work to promote 1540 implementation. I look forward to exchanging ideas with all of you.