

Information Note¹

Event: Regional Conference on 1540 Implementation “Seizing the opportunities, reducing the risks” in Latin America and the Caribbean

Organizer: Plurinational State of Bolivia in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)

Date and Venue: 7-8 November 2018, La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia

Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to take and enforce, inter alia, 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 controls over related materials and to this end ... shall develop and maintain appropriate and effective export and border controls.
- Resolution 2325 (2016) recalls its decision that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls including by establishing appropriate control over related materials, and also calls upon States that have not done so to start developing effective national control lists at the earliest opportunity for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- On 19 April 2018 the 1540 Committee received an invitation for 1540 Experts to participate and speak in the conference on 1540 implementation in the states of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference aims at looking for effective practices in 1540 implementation, especially in the field of domestic controls for related materials bearing in mind the specificities of the region.
- Two experts attended the workshop.

Overview

The Conference opened on 7 November with a welcome address from Ambassador María del Carmen Almendras, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, who

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raised the issue of the current security threats posed by non-state actors could cause significant humanitarian consequences. Ambassador Sacha Llorentty Solíz, Chair of the 1540 Committee, then made an opening statement on behalf of the 1540 Committee, highlighted that exchanges and sharing of information by the UN Member States is one of the Committee's core activities. He also expressed the importance of improving the assistance system to facilitate Member States' capacity to implement their 1540 obligations, as well as the usefulness of developing voluntary National Implementation Action Plans as encouraged by resolution 2325 (2016). Ms. Nancy Robinson, director of the UNRILEC, also made opening statement and stated that in order to prevent chemical, biological and nuclear materials and delivery means from ending up in terrorists' hands, effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a vital tool in this regard.

1540 Experts made presentation; one on key obligations of resolution 1540 (2004), focused on operative paragraphs 3(a) and (b) in order to draw attention to accounting, security and physical protection of chemical, biological and nuclear materials, the other on the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) to control related materials and possible synergies with domestic controls already in place, in particular, regarding health and environmental sectors.

Participants included national 1540 points of contact and officials from 19 Member States in the region. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views and effective practices for preventing the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, focusing on the handling of related materials, with a view to strengthening the region's implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The conference also provided the opportunity for nine international and regional partners to highlight their technical recommendations for handling nuclear, biological and chemical materials safety and security, and to share information about their activities to assist Member States.

Additional Comments

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