

Information Note¹

Event: **Regional Conference to prevent and combat terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of financing in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Organizer: Republic of Panama and the Organization of American States (OAS) through the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Date and Venue: 6 – 7 February 2018, Panama City, Panama

Participants: *States:* Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincente and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay,
International, regional and sub regional organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), The United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), OAS/CICTE, The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and 1540 Group of Experts.

Other: Stimson Center, Verification Technology and Information Centre (VERTIC)

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws that prohibit any non-State actor certain activities regarding WMD as well as, among other actions, prohibit the financing of any such activities. Resolution 1540 (2004) further 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. Resolution 1540 (2004) requires also that “all States shall ... establish ...appropriate...controls on providing funds and services... related to such export and transshipment such as financing ...that would contribute to proliferation”. Implementation of these obligations require Member States to develop and maintain the appropriate legislative and

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regulatory framework. Information exchanges about ways to implement laws and regulations can be especially helpful on a regional level. Further to that, resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

On 10 and 17 January 2018 the 1540 Committee received an invitation for the 1540 Chair and for a 1540 Expert respectively to participate and speak at the conference “Regional Conference to prevent and combat terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of financing in Latin America and the Caribbean”. A Member of the Group of Experts participated in the Conference.

Highlights

Representatives of 26 OAS Member States and 20 technical experts from different international, and subregional organisations as well as from civil society attended the conference from 6 to 7 February 2018 in the Republic of Panama. The conference provided an opportunity for participating Member States to learn about strengthening national financial systems through international cooperation and information-sharing as a means to prevent terrorism and the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction as well as to provide a platform for dialogue and the sharing of experiences on ways to counter risks and challenges posed in the hemisphere by the threat of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The conference was designed to promote a better understanding of United Nations Security Council resolutions on the prevention and fight against terrorism, on financing of proliferation and on the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The conference provided a good opportunity to highlight relevant 1540 obligations and the assistance mechanism of the 1540 Committee. The conference also provided a valuable opportunity to discuss all relevant 1540 obligations, main facts from the follow up resolution 2325 (2016), as well as to learn about implementation challenges in the region.

Additional Comments

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