

Information Note¹

- Event:** “The threat of terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean”
- Organizer:** The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism
- Date and Venue:** 14 December 2020, virtual meeting
- Participants:** Members of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM-IMPACS), Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organisation of American States (OAS/CICTE), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the 1540 Expert Group.

Background

In preambular paragraphs to resolution 1540 (2004) the Security Council expressed grave concern at the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Security Council recognised the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.

Under OP 11 (e) of resolution 1540 (2004) the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee to provide opportunities for interaction with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Under OP 23 the Security Council encouraged

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relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee on issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

Under OP 27 of resolution 2325 (2016) the Security Council reiterated the need to continue to enhance cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism including, as appropriate, enhanced information sharing and other issues of relevance.

Under OP 3 of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council decided that the 1540 Committee would conduct a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) prior to the renewal of its mandate. This expires on 25 April 2021.

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 9 December 2020, from Mr Tarek Ladeb, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, invited a member of the Group of Experts to participate in a virtual open briefing on “The threat of terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean”, to be held on 14 December 2020.

Highlights

The meeting was opened by H.E. Mr Tarek Ladeb, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism. He noted that the number of terrorist incidents in the Latin American and Caribbean regions had dropped over the year, consistent with trends globally and coinciding with the pandemic. Nevertheless in the region there was increasing evidence of links between terrorist groups and transnational crime organisations. The objective of the current meeting was to identify threats, trends, best practices in response, and areas for cooperation.

The Assistant Secretary General and CTED Executive Director observed that following approval of resolution 1373 in 2001 States in the region had made significant progress on counter-terrorism measures. The terrorism landscape had nevertheless changed since 2001 and furthermore the pandemic threatened to undermine States’ resilience to terrorism. This strengthened the importance of tailored responses, respectful of gender, age and other issues.

Participants provided an overview of the current terrorism threat landscape in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the responses of their organisation or State.

The 1540 Expert provided a summary of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the work of the Committee. He noted that resolution 1540 (2004) and successor resolutions focused on WMD proliferation by non-State actors (who might include terrorists) but was not itself a counter-terrorism resolution. Nevertheless, the resolutions included requirements for cooperation as appropriate between the 1540 Committee, the CTC and the 1267 Committee. The Expert described the 2021 Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004). States would be able to provide input for the Committee's consideration, once the Review had been rescheduled.

This meeting enabled a range of relevant regional organisations and UN bodies, and a State, to provide assessments of the current and future threat of terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many of the themes were directly relevant to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), such as the need for States in the region to implement measures relating to border controls and illicit trafficking.

Additional Comments

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