

Information Note¹

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Event: | Dominican Republic-Panama Peer Review |
| Organizer(s): | Governments of Dominican Republic and Panama, with the support of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States |
| Date and Venue: | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26-29 March 2019 (first phase) Panama City, Panama, 9-12 April 2019 (second phase) |

Background

- The peer review is an exercise whereby two or more countries voluntarily agree to share information and experiences related to the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- To date, there have been three such reviews: Croatia and Poland in 2013, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan from 2014 to 2017 and Colombia and Chile during 2017.
- In a joint letter dated 22 January 2019, Panama and the Dominican Republic informed the 1540 Committee about their intention to initiate a peer review process on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) between those two countries. That letter also noted that both States would appreciate the presence of experts from the 1540 Group of Experts in this process.
- The peer review initiative consisted of preparatory meetings and the exchange of visits by delegations to the two countries. The visit of a Panamanian delegation to the Dominican Republic took place from 26 to 29 March 2018 in Santo Domingo. Panama confirmed in a letter dated 28 February 2019 that the second segment of the peer review would take place in Panama City, Panama during April 2019.
- Panama and the Dominican Republic were the main stakeholders of the peer-review process, as host country and visiting delegation, respectively, but received support from the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.

Highlights

First phase, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The visit was formally opened by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador of Panama to the Dominican Republic. The opening ceremony also included interventions by the 1540 experts and a high-level official from OAS/CICTE.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

The Dominican Republic delegation made presentations on the following topics:

- The legislative framework for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Dominican Republic
- Control of strategic goods that are traded internationally, risk alerts, the European Union control list, an operational list for Dominican Republic, training and inter-ministerial co-operation
- Authorized economic operators in the Dominican Republic
- Dominican Republic's "single window" for foreign trade transactions
- The safe transportation of radioactive material in the Dominican Republic
- CBRNe emergency management in Dominican Republic
- Authorization of industrial chemicals in Dominican Republic
- Licenses, import permits and withdrawal permits for chemical substances
- Safe transport of chemical substances

The delegations visited the laboratory of the General Customs Directorate, the Centre for Emergency Operations and a storage facility for used radioactive waste.

Second phase, Panama City, Panama

Opening remarks were given by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director of the Security Council of Public Security and National Defence and a representative from OAS.

Presentations by the Panamanian delegation included:

- Legal framework for export control, including topics on catch-all, control lists, transit controls and industry outreach. The presentation also described a planned "single window" for foreign trade transactions to be used by industry and several ministries alike.
- Technology and Innovation about a national plan for nuclear security;
- Safe transportation of CBRN materials in Panama;
- Control of radiation and ionizing sources in Panama;
- National Authority for the CWC mandate;
- Transport authorization and registration of substances that are subject to such control in Panama; and

The delegations visited the Control Center of the Panama Canal, an official installation for explosives, a port terminal and the Panamanian Centre for Emergency Operations.

Additional Comments

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