

Information Note¹

Event: Challenges to Counter Proliferation Financing: Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and other Relevant UNSC Resolutions on Proliferation and Terrorism Financing

Organizers: Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Government of Jamaica

Date and Venue: 10-11 December 2019, Kingston, Jamaica

Participants: Government of Panama: Representatives from Ministries and Departments, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Bank of Jamaica, Betting Gaming & Lotteries Commission, Department of Public Prosecutions, Financial Investigations Division, Financial Services Commission, Jamaica Customs Agency, Jamaica Defense Force, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Security, and others.

A representative from the Center for New American Security
(an NGO)

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee nor the organisers or participants in the event.

Background

- Under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), all States must adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from financing activities related to manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. In addition, under operative paragraph 3 all States must take and enforce 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, under operative paragraph 3(d), all States must establish appropriate effective national controls on providing funds and services related to export and transshipment of such items, including financing. All States are required to establish and enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations.
- Under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) the 1540 Committee is asked to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), paying particular attention to, *inter alia*, proliferation finance measures.
- On 29 October 2019, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organisation of American States (OAS/CICTE) sent a letter inviting the Chair of the 1540 Committee to nominate a member of the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in a two-day national workshop on proliferation financing in the framework of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), in Kingston, Jamaica, 10-11 December 2019.

Highlights and Discussions

The Workshop opened with remarks by the High Commissioner of Canada (as the sponsor of the event) who recorded the commitment of her government to supporting the efforts of States in the Caribbean to implement resolution 1540 (2004) in full. She was followed by the Permanent Secretary of the Jamaican Ministry of National Security who stated that the workshop was critical for building capacity to implement resolution 1540 (2004). Proliferation, and proliferation financing, was an increasing threat in a globalized world. Jamaica was compliant with 16 of the 19 international terrorism conventions but although

Jamaica had put in place a Terrorism Prevention Act, including measures to counter terrorist financing, more work needed to be done on relevant legislation and its enforcement.

The Permanent Secretary of the Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade noted the significance of the workshop in light of recent amendments to Jamaica's Terrorism Prevention Act, Proceedings of Crime Act and UN Security Council Resolutions Implementation Act, and accompanying regulations. Jamaica, as a small island state with porous borders, was at increasing risk from the threat of WMD and its financing, including in respect of related dual use goods and technology.

The Workshop programme comprised technical presentations by the 1540 Expert and Experts and officials from the Government of Jamaica, OAS, Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, CARICOM, and the Center for New American Security, an NGO, on terrorist financing and proliferation financing. Participants also worked through a table-top exercise relating to proliferation finance.

The Workshop was characterized by intensive discussions amongst participants. Recurring themes included the burden faced by small States, possessing human resources severely limited in terms of numbers and expertise, in responding to the range of requirements placed on them as a result of their membership of the UN and relevant international treaties, conventions and other regimes. In the Caribbean region, illicit trafficking of small arms, light weapons and drugs, and their financing were considered of greater immediate concern than illicit trade of WMD and related materials, and their financing but it was important to consider possible future developments. Participants noted the potential relevance of strategic trade legislation to effective controls of illicit trafficking.

Additional Comments

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