

Information Note¹

- Event:** The Workshop for Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean Countries on the Universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment.
- Organizer:** Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the financial support of the Government of Canada.
- Date and Venue:** 18-20 June 2019, Panama City, Panama
- Participants:** Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Panama
- International organizations:* International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and 1540 Committee expert.

Background

Operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004) decided that States shall adopt and enforce effective laws that prohibit any non-State actor to engage in numerous activities related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) decided that States shall develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures.

The 1987 Convention on the Physical Prevention of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its 2005 Amendment, and the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) implement important elements of these operative paragraphs.

On 12 April 2019, the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC extended an invitation to the 1540 Committee Group of Experts supporting the work of the Committee, to participate in a workshop aiming at raising awareness on the importance of becoming party to and fully implementing the two legal instruments cited above and focusing on the benefits and challenges of States of adhering to these international legal instruments and incorporating their provisions into national legislation.

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.

Highlights

The workshop was delivered under UNODC's three-year project, funded by the Government of Canada, to promote the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT, CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment. It brought together 25 participants from Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Panama.

During the workshop discussions focused on the main features of the three conventions, the differences and synergies between them, as well as the challenges and lessons learnt associated with their implementation. The workshop provided a platform to inform participants about opportunities for assistance provided by the different organizations represented at the event. Other topics addressed during the workshop included the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and synergies with the conventions, as well as the issue of illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material in the region.

A 1540 expert presented an overview of resolution 1540 (2004), including the basic obligations. The presentation also described the 1540 Committee's work process and architecture and highlighted the synergy and complementarity between resolution 1540 (2004) obligations and various counter-terrorism instruments, such as ICSANT, the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment.

Additional Comments

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