

Information Note¹

Event: Online Workshop on National Implementing Legislation under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Organiser: UNODA and UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Date and Venue: 2 December 2021, Online

Background

On 12 November 2021, the Chief of the BWC Implementation Support Unit in UNODA sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the Committee to take part in an “Online Workshop on National Implementation Legislation under the Biological Weapons Convention”.

The Workshop provided an overview of the elements, approaches and assistance resources linked to the development of BWC implementation legislation. The event also provided an opportunity for highlighting the importance and benefits of having in place BWC implementation legislation in CARICOM Member States.

Overview

The agenda was organised around presentations from speakers from the BWC Implementation Support Unit, VERTIC, Africa CDC, CICTE-OAS and the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee. There were two interactive exercises (in the form of poll-like questions arising from the presentations) to serve as a “knowledge check”. The event ended with Q&A and closing remarks.

After presentations from the BWC Implementation Support Unit, VERTIC, Africa CDC and CICTE-OAS, the 1540 Expert gave his presentation. He first gave an overview of the preambular and operative paragraphs of resolution 1540 (2004). He then discussed some linkages between the BWC and resolution 1540 (2004) including the prohibitions on biological weapons in Article IV of the BWC and Operative Paragraph 2 of the resolution. He also discussed biosecurity under Operative Paragraph 3(a) and (b) of resolution 1540 (2004) and as a way of preventing the proliferation of biological weapons under the BWC. The Expert then observed that Operative Paragraph 3(c) and (d) of the resolution has linkages to Article III of the BWC as they have the objective of preventing the transfer of biological weapons and bioagents and toxins for proliferation purposes. Finally, he gave an overview of statistics related to preventing bioweapons

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proliferation under resolution 1540 (2004), including under Operative Paragraphs 2, 3(a) and (b), 3(c) and (d), collectively and individually, and by region.

Additional Comments

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