

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Workshop on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans for Central American Integration System States.
- Organizers:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Date and Venue:** 11-13 October 2022
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, the IAEA Scientific Secretary for the event (and IAEA Experts from Spain and Ecuador), and the 1540 Expert.

Background

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 26 July 2022, Ms Elena Buglova, Director, Division of Nuclear Security, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of the IAEA, invited a representative of the Committee to contribute a presentation and participate in discussions at a Regional Workshop on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans to be held in Panama City, Panama, 11-13 October 2022. The letter said that the purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the importance of nuclear security and the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) mechanism in Central American Integration System (SICA) States.

This meeting was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to the following operative paragraphs (OPs) of resolution 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016):

- Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to implement, inter alia, effective domestic controls to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, as well as effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect such items.
- OP 10 of resolution 1977 (2011) urges the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively

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with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), drawing in particular on information provided by States as well as examples of successful assistance, and to liaise on the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

- OP 18 of resolution 1977 (2011) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the Committee on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). OP 23 of resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the Committee on 1540 implementation issues.

Highlights

The workshop was opened by Mr Reynaldo Lee, International Relations Analyst in the Office of Technical Cooperation of the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), of the Government of Panama. He said that the meeting was an important opportunity to discuss threats to nuclear security and their mitigation, the key actors involved in implementation of national INSSPs and the elements of nuclear physical security that could be developed on a regional basis. The IAEA and its experts were available to help States create a roadmap for their development. Sustainability of the elements of these plans was a key issue.

The IAEA Scientific Secretary then followed by stating that INSSPs provide a framework for States to analyse their nuclear security requirements, identify gaps, formulate strategic guidelines to address these and focus resources accordingly and sustainably, and to comply with international obligations. Measures to guarantee nuclear safety and security also promoted social well-being. Nuclear physical security plans were a State responsibility but they were also a shared responsibility. This was the first IAEA Workshop on the subject of INSSPs in the region, and was an opportunity to describe support available from the IAEA to enable States to develop and implement INSSPs.

IAEA Experts made a number presentations on nuclear security threats: In the SICA region at present these mainly arose from industrial and medical use made of radioactive sources. IAEA Experts described the UN Security Council resolutions, international instruments, treaties and conventions designed to assist States to meet nuclear physical threats, and on the structures and procedures adopted by some countries to counter CBRN terrorism. A representative of the U.S. Department of Energy described assistance programmes offered by the U.S to support capacity building by States in relation to nuclear threat reduction, prevention and detection.

Participants engaged in vigorous discussion of the nuclear physical security threats in the region, the challenges of ensuring adequate resources were directed at the problems, and the importance of sustainable solutions, particularly taking into account staff turn-over in government positions. Participants welcomed the opportunity to work together, and with the benefit of IAEA's expertise, to strengthen their collective understanding of nuclear security threats and requirements, and of available responses.

The 1540 Expert described the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the Committee's tools for enhancing implementation of the resolution by States. The Expert presented data on implementation of elements of resolution 1540 (2004) in the SICA region, based on information in the Committee's matrices. He noted that these matrices include a reference as to whether States have INSSPs in place, and described areas of complementarity between the components of physical security as set out in an INSSP and requirements of resolution 1540 (2004).

Additional Comments

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