

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** Regional Workshop to Promote the Universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM)
- Organizers:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Date and Venue:** 8-11 November 2022, Asuncion, Paraguay
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, Dominica, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago; and from the IAEA, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, and the 1540 Expert.

### Background

By means of a letter dated 12 October 2022, the Director for the Division of Nuclear Security at the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informed the Chair of the Committee about a regional workshop to be convened by the IAEA in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 8 to 11 November 2022. The purpose of the event was to promote adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and to support implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment through the exchange of views and experiences of States in the region.

This workshop was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) as follows:

- The Security Council, in the preamble to resolution 1540 (2004), recognizes that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.
- Under operative paragraph 1 of resolution 1540 (2004), States are required to refrain from

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

providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

- Under operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, States are required to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories.
- Under operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, States are required to 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. This includes measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport; effective physical protection measures; effective border controls and law enforcement efforts; national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as end-user controls; and criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.
- The 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment implements elements of these operative paragraphs.
- Under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) the 1540 Committee is directed to continue to intensify its efforts to promote full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly noting the need for more attention, among others, on accounting for and securing related materials.
- Under operative paragraph 29 of this resolution, the 1540 Committee is requested to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional, and, as appropriate, national level.

## **Highlights**

The workshop was opened by Mr Mario Gutierrez, Minister for the Radiological and Nuclear Authority of the National Government of Paraguay. He thanked IAEA for its support to Paraguay and other countries in Latin America, emphasised the importance of the nuclear industry to economic development in the region and the need to ensure nuclear and radiological materials were kept secure and safe while in use, storage and transport. The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its Amendment (A/CPPNM) were crucial instruments in these respects. Individual countries needed have appropriate nuclear security legislation in place, but he noted that policymakers often faced challenges in ensuring relevant draft legislation was accorded the proper priority. At a regional level, cooperation, coordination and information sharing on issues relating to nuclear security was very important.

An overview of IAEA's work in support of the universalisation of implementation of the A/CPPNM was provided by the IAEA Nuclear Security representative. She described IAEA's outreach tools including seminars, regional workshop, bilateral meetings, brochures and e-learning courses. She noted that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi had written to States in January 2020 to encourage adherence to the A/CPPNM, and the DDG for Nuclear Security had followed-up in March 2021.

The IAEA nuclear security Expert and an IAEA legal Expert made a number of presentations on IAEA's support to Member States in connection with the international nuclear security and protection framework. A representative of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also described the requirements of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and UNODC programmes to support States' implementation of this Convention.

The 1540 Expert described the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the Committee's tools for enhancing implementation of the resolution by States, including the Committee's assistance mechanism. He noted where similarities exist between the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) relating to nuclear security and those of the CPPNM and its Amendment. The Expert also presented data on implementation of elements of resolution 1540 (2004) in the GRULAC region, based on information in the Committee's matrices.

Workshop participants discussed nuclear physical protection issues both within individual States and in the region, noting the importance of addressing such issues not just at a national level but on a regional basis. Some participant identified the need for better national legislation, regularly reviewed and updated to reflect economic developments and changing concepts of security threats. Local workshops and other types of technical training by the IAEA and other relevant organisations would be useful. At an international level, others noted, cooperation and information sharing should be improved.

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.

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)