

Information Note¹

Events: Regional Workshop to Promote the Universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)

Organizers: Hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Government of the Dominican Republic

Date and Venue: 9-12 May 2023, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Participants: *Government representatives from regional States:*
Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Honduras; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Trinidad and Tobago.
International representatives:
IAEA, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), IAEA
International Expert
1540 Committee Expert

Background

In a letter dated 17 February 2023, the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), informed the Chair of the Committee about a regional workshop to be convened by the IAEA in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 9 to 12 May 2023. According to the IAEA, the purpose of the event was to promote adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment and to support implementation through an exchange of views and experiences of States in the region.

The letter (S/AC.44/2023/NOTE.29 of 13 March 2023) invited the 1540 Committee to nominate a representative to participate in the workshop and to deliver presentations on “UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Key obligations with specific reference to nuclear security measures” and the “1540 Committee assistance mechanism”, as well as to participate in a Panel discussion on “The Importance and Benefits of Joining and Fully Implementing the A/CPPNM and Other Legal Instruments in the Area of Nuclear Security”. While the event focused on the universalisation and implementation of the A/CPPNM, the agenda also included presentations related to resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

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

- In its preamble, 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

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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.

- The 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its 2005 Amendment, and the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) implement important elements of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) related to nuclear weapons and related materials.
- Operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2023) reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... and addresses all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.

Highlights

This workshop was opened by Mr. Alfonso Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Savings and Energy Efficiency of the Dominican Republic. Participants in the workshop included more than 30 representatives from States in the Latin America and Caribbean region and international experts.

This event enabled States in the Latin America and Caribbean region to engage in focused discussions on the CPPNM and its Amendment, as well as ICSANT, including progress made towards accession and implementation. Participants were also able to exchange information on challenges experienced and lessons learnt. The workshop presented a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), including measures to account for, secure and physically protect nuclear weapons related materials, which are binding on all UN Member States, as well as to provide information on the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation. Similarities and differences in scope, objective and application between the respective international instruments were explained, but also highlighted the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) with other international instruments.

Additional Comments

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