

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Workshop to Promote the Universalization of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (A/CPPNM)
- Organizers:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with the Government of Cuba
- Date and Venue:** 28 – 30 April 2025, Havana, Cuba (virtually)
- Participants:** *Government representatives from regional States:*
Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
International representatives:
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and an Expert of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Background

In communication dated 13 March 2025, from the Division of Nuclear Security at the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) a representative of the 1540 Committee was invited to virtually participate in a regional workshop organized by the IAEA in cooperation with and the Government of Cuba that was to be convened in Havana, from 28 to 30 April 2025 (see S/AC.44/2025/NOTE.17 of 13 March 2025).

According to the IAEA, the purpose of the event was to promote further 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.

The invited expert was expected to deliver a presentation on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its complementarities with the A/CPPNM, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), as well as on the 1540 Committee assistance mechanism.

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

¹ For information – this is 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.

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.

- The 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, and the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism include obligatory measures for States Parties to implement that are relevant to elements of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) related to nuclear weapons and related materials.
- 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

The programme of the workshop covered the international legal framework for nuclear security, regional status and perspectives on adherence and implementation of the A/CPPNM, the importance and benefits of adherence to the A/CPPNM and other legal nuclear security instruments, overview of regional status on adherence to and implementation of the A/CPPNM, national perspectives and experiences on various aspects of the A/CPPNM implementation, as well as legislative and technical assistance programmes.

Beyond providing a platform for in-depth discussions among regional States on their accession to and implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment, the workshop also presented a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of States' obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation. Participants were briefed about the differences in scope, objectives and application of the different international instruments, but also the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) and overlaps with provisions under other international instruments. National participants also had the opportunity to exchange information on success stories and some of the challenges experienced in the process of accession and the implementation of nuclear security instruments, lessons learnt, as well as the benefits of the full and effective implementation of the respective instruments. Some of the challenges related to nuclear security instruments, including the lack of awareness about the relevance and potential benefits of such instruments and their implementation, conflicting priorities and the lack of human and financial resources were discussed by participants. The advantage of cooperation and the need for close co-ordination to deliver effective assistance to requesting States were also highlighted during the workshop.

Additional Comments

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