

Information Note¹

- Event:** Dominican Republic-Panama Peer Review
- Organizers:** Government of Dominican Republic, with the support of Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE/OAS)
- Date and Venue:** 14-16 November 2022, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Participants:** Dominican Republic: Customs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Public Health, Customs General Directorate, National Laboratory, Central Veterinary Laboratory;
Panama: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Customs Authority, Ministry of Health;
International organisations: European Union and 1540 Committee;
Regional organisations: CICTE/OAS;
Other agency: Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (EXBS) Programme of the U.S. Department of State.

Background

On 2 November 2022, the Executive Secretary of CICTE sent a letter to the Chair inviting a member of the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee to attend the peer review that the governments of Panama and the Dominican Republic have decided to conduct as a follow up activity of the peer review carried out by these countries in 2019 in the framework of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The seminar's objective was to provide academic representatives and other key national stakeholders the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of resolution 1540 (2004), its implementation, and its obligations.

Highlights

The peer review between the Dominican Republic and Panama, that took place in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, was supported by CICTE/OAS, under the programme "Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in Latin America in line with resolution 1540 (2004) of the UN Security Council", sponsored by the European Union.

¹ 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.

During the first day of the exercise, participants were welcomed by HE Ambassador Ramón Quiñones introductory remarks, followed by the CICTE representative, the Dominican Republic Point of Contact and lastly by Panama's Ambassador to the Dominican Republic at the Dominican Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After a tour de table, representatives from Panama and the Dominican Republic delivered presentations, describing their legislative framework for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

On the second day of the peer review, participants took tours of the Dominican Republic Air Force Base where a representative from CICTE provided an overview of the Biological Weapons Convention and other international instruments. The EXBS representative followed, sharing an overview of their ongoing projects in the Western hemisphere and the Caribbean, and finally both States provided a summary on how both countries dealt with COVID-19 response plans.

On the third and final day of the peer review exercise, participants visited the Public Health National Laboratory, where a series of presentations describing COVID-19 pandemic protocols as well as their biosafety and biosecurity measures in place were provided. After participants were shown the facilities, were driven to the Ministry of Defence where representatives from the Dominican Republic and Panama delivered presentations on mercury shipments customs controls, transit, and tracing.

The peer review concluded with the Dominican Republic and Panama's conclusions on the exercise and with closing remarks offered by the Executive Secretary of CICTE and the European Union delegate.

Additional Comments

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