

Information Note¹

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Event: Cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean

Organizer: Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE-OAS)

Date and Venue: 8 – 9 June 2022, Virtual event

Participants: International organizations: UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union - European External Action Service (EEAS), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC-ISU), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), World Customs Organization (WCO), Members of the 1540 Group of Experts.
Regional organizations: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC).
National agencies: U.S. Department of State (Export Control and Related Border Security -EXBS-), U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NSDD)).
Non-governmental organizations: Stimson Center, Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

Background

On 17 May 2022, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him to take part in a regional meeting of stakeholders involved with implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). With a letter of 24 May 2022, the invitation was extended to the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee.

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.

The objective of the meeting was to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination among those organisations implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in the region, particularly in light of the 2022 Comprehensive Review.

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

- OP 19 urges States as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organisations to inform the 1540 Committee, as appropriate, of areas in which they are able to provide assistance, and calls upon States as well as such organisations, if they have not done so previously, to provide the Committee with information on their ongoing assistance programmes relevant to resolution 1540 (2004);
- OP 20 urges the Committee to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance, inter alia through a regional approach, where appropriate, as well as the holding of regional assistance conferences, which bring together States that request assistance with those offering assistance;
- OP 22 encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests;
- OP 23 encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); and
- OP 24 calls upon relevant international, regional and subregional organizations that have not yet done so to provide the Committee with a Point of Contact or Coordinator for Resolution 1540 (2004).

Highlights

After the opening remarks delivered by the CICTE Executive Secretary, a 1540 Committee Expert delivered a presentation on the status of implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Afterwards, OAS and representatives from different organizations provided overviews of their ongoing projects as well as recent and planned activities related to the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean. After the updates, an interactive discussion to reflect on the impact of the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004) and on priorities and concerns for the region was held on the second day.

The special importance and usefulness of the cooperation meeting (attended by about 47 participants) were highlighted several times throughout the meeting.

Furthermore, many different issues were raised. For example, it became clear that awareness raising regarding the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) is still important and this process would be more effective if coordination among donors would be more productive in order to make the best use of the limited resources to ensure the sustainability of assistance process.

With regard to future assistance issues, the following were identified: law/ regulations enforcement, capacity building as well as biosafety and biosecurity implementation measures. Interagency coordination at national and regional level continues being a challenge for the region.

Future regular cooperation meetings would be desirable not only for the Latin America and the Caribbean but also for other regions in the world as well.

In conclusion, this was a fruitful meeting which helped facilitate a frank exchange of information among donors, implementers and the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts.

Additional comments

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