

Information Note¹

- Events:** Peer review meetings between Republic of Paraguay and Oriental Republic of Uruguay
- Organisers:** Governments of Oriental Republic of Uruguay and of Republic of Paraguay with the support of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States
- Dates and Venues:** Montevideo, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, 20/21 August 2019 (first phase), and Asunción, Republic of Paraguay, 11/12 September 2019 (second phase)
- Participants:**
- Eastern Republic of Uruguay: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defence, National Secretariat for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (SENACLAFT), Customs, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining and the University of the Republic.
- Republic of Paraguay: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Secretariat for the Prevention of Laundering of Money or Property (SEPRELAD), National Directorate of Customs, Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Authority.
- Other countries: Canada (Montevideo meeting only)
- Regional organisations: Representatives of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Uruguay and Paraguay, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the OAS.

Highlights

The first leg of the Peer Review, in Montevideo, Uruguay, was chaired by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay. The Deputy General Director, Ambassador Daniel Castillos, opened the Review by welcoming the Paraguayan agreement to the Peer Review. He noted that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was obligatory on all UN member states. Although Uruguay had no WMDs, government policy was to ensure that appropriate legislation was in place, with government departments adequately resourced and equipped to enforce the measures. Uruguay was a member of all the relevant regional organisations and was committed to sharing experiences and working with countries in the region to combat proliferation of WMD.

The second leg of the Peer Review, in Asunción, Paraguay, was chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay. The Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, Ambassador Jose Antonio dos Santos opened proceedings. He welcomed the Uruguayan

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participation in the Peer review. He stated that Paraguay pursued a policy of cooperation with the international community to address threats to peace and security, and resolution 1540 (2004) was an essential element to global peace. He noted that Paraguay was committed to full implementation of the resolution and that Paraguay would shortly submit a further national report and a national implementation action plan to the 1540 Committee.

The two governments had agreed that the Peer Review would be concentrated into three thematic areas and in both Montevideo and in Asunción, participants made presentations and held detailed discussions on the following themes:

- Area 1: Legal framework for the criminalization and criminal procedure of crimes related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their financing.
- Area 2: Best practices in border and customs controls and response to CBRN incidents
- Area 3: Strategic trade regime and nuclear regulations, with special reference to systems of control lists and the smuggling of nuclear material

During both meetings, in Montevideo and in Asunción, the formal discussions were followed by site visits. In Montevideo, participants attended a field exercise to demonstrate the CBRN incident response capabilities of the “Ansina” Battalion No 6 of the Uruguayan Army Corps of Engineers which was followed by visit to the Carrasco International Airport for briefings and demonstrations on control and vigilance systems in place there. In Asunción, participants visited the Department of Intelligence of the Paraguayan National Police for briefings on System Bravo (the National Police Intelligence System). and then visited the headquarters of the Paraguayan Presidential Escort Regiment for briefings and demonstration of the Escort’s CBRN technical capabilities. This was followed a visit to Asunción airport for briefings on security arrangements in place to ensure safe passage of cargo and passengers.

The representatives of Uruguay and of Paraguay agreed to submit a joint report to the 1540 Committee describing the Peer Review and conclusions.

Additional Comments

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