

Information Note¹

Event: Regional Conference on Countering Proliferation Finance

Organizer: Government of Chile

Date and Venue: 22-24 October 2019, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Participants: Representatives from the governments of Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Panama, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Brazil, and the United States.

Representatives from Civil Society: The Royal United Services Institute, London, and an international bank.

Background

- Operative paragraph 1 of resolution 1540 (2004) requires States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Under operative paragraph 2, States are obliged to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories, in particular for terrorist purposes. Under operative paragraph 3 (d), States must implement effective controls on export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including related materials.
- Also under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), all States must adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from financing activities related to manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. In addition, operative paragraph 3(d) decides that all States shall establish appropriate effective national controls on providing funds and

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services related to export of WMD related materials, including financing. It also requires States to establish and enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations.

- Also under operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1540 (2004), all States are called upon to promote dialogue and cooperation on non- proliferation so as to address the threat posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, and their means of delivery.
- Under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) the 1540 Committee is asked to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), paying particular attention *inter alia* to proliferation finance measures.

Overview

The Conference was opened on behalf of the Government of Chile by the Director General of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He stated that the policy of the Government of Chile was to work with regional and international partners to promote peace and security. Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and their financing (PF) was a global threat. The workshop would be important in helping to train participants in identifying and combating PF. It would help coordination of efforts against PF on a regional basis. It would also help cooperation between relevant domestic stakeholders. The Charge de Affairs of the Embassy of the United States stated that international cooperation was needed to combat illicit financial flows: PF was an important priority in this respect.

Day 1 of the conference consisted of consideration of the various aspects of PF, including UN and other controls; Day 2 looked at legislation, and strategies and tools to mitigate the risk of PF, including the role of the private sector. Day 3 was focused on conduct PF risk assessments, at a national and regional level. Representatives of the participating States gave presentations of their PF legislative and enforcement systems. Subsequent discussions covered details of the requirements imposed by different legal frameworks in different States, the infrastructure needed for effective implementation, and enforcement mechanisms and practices. Participants took part in an exercise to conduct individual national proliferation finance risk assessments which were then used to construct a rough regional picture of PF risk in Latin America.

Several participants noted the relevance of 1540 national implementation action plans in determining policies and that procedures to meet the challenge of proliferation finance, and 1540 regional workshops could help the framework of regional efforts to mitigate PF risk.

Additional Comments

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