

Information Note¹

Event:	National round table on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
Organizers:	Government of the Belize, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) / Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC).
Date and venue:	23 February 2015, Belmopan, Belize
Participants:	Government of Belize: Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize Defence Force, Belize Coast Guard, National Security Council Secretariat, Customs & Excise Department, Attorney General Ministry and Police. International Organizations: 1540 Committee Experts UNLIREC CARICOM

1. Objectives

Make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004), highlighting its obligations.

Discuss and analyse with the participants the 1540 matrix of Belize and exchange views on how to address any gaps identified.

2. Background

Operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1540 (2004) recognises that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of the resolution. Operative paragraph 14 of resolution 1977 (2011), *inter alia*, urged relevant international organisations to inform the Committee of areas in which they can provide assistance. In operative paragraph 11(a) of resolution 1810 (2008), the pursuit of the ongoing dialogue between the 1540 Committee and States are encouraged.

UNODA through UNLIREC, organized a national roundtable on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) on 23 February 2015 in Belmopan, Belize. This activity took place in the context of Phase 1 of UNLIREC's Assistance Package on strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Caribbean States.

This was the fifth roundtable aimed at strengthening national legislation and policy frameworks in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Similar UNODA / UNLIREC roundtables were

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undertaken in Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Dominican Republic with the participation of 1540 Committee experts, in June, October and December 2014 and January 2015.

On 9 February 2015, the Officer-in-Charge of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs extended an invitation to the Committee, and its experts supporting the work of the Committee, to participate in this roundtable.

3. Overview

The meeting brought together the members of a various government ministries and agencies that deal with different aspects of resolution 1540 (2004).

The meeting was opened by Mr. George Lovell, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of National Security together with the 1540 Programme Coordinator of UNLIREC.

The roundtable included presentations by the 1540 Committee expert, UNLIREC and CARICOM as well as interactive sessions with representatives of the Government of Belize.

The 1540 expert made a presentation on the background as well as the continuing relevance of resolution 1540 (2004), its obligations and follow-up resolutions. He also mentioned the assistance matchmaking role of the Committee, as well as elements that Governments might consider for the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans. He also reminded that States have been asked to provide the 1540 Committee with a National Point of Contact.

The representatives of UNLIREC made a presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the legal study carried out by the Regional Centre.

During the concluding remarks, Mr. George Lovell indicated that the Government of Belize would continue working with the participating stakeholders in the framework of an Inter-Institutional working group to address issues related to 1540 implementation. It was also agreed that the issue of developing a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan would be considered.

4. Additional comments

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