

Information Note¹

- Event:** Seminar for the Andean Community States: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540
- Organizers:** The Government of Colombia, the Stimson Centre, The Stanley Foundation, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs.
- Date and Venue:** 12-14 March 2012, Bogota, Colombia
- Participants:** *States:* Member States of the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru), Canada, Finland, Japan, USA
- International organizations:* Secretariat of the Andean Community, CARICOM, CWC, IAEA, OAS, SICA, UNODC
- Civil society including the private sector:* Securus Strategic Trade Solutions LLC, Stanley Foundation, Stimson Center, VERTIC

1. **Objectives for a 1540 Committee expert participation**

- Raise awareness among the represented States of the importance of resolution 1540 and its full implementation;
- Explain resolution 1540 (2004) requirements;
- Identify obstacles and challenges in the adoption of national legislation and the need for assistance to alleviate any lack of capacity to implement the resolution;
- Explore the potential of a sub-regional approach;
- Follow up on previous discussions with the Andean Community States, to obtain help from the 1540 Committee regarding the inclusion of elements of the resolution into developments to be undertaken by the Community.

2. **Background**

- Encouraged by the success experienced by the CARICOM and SICA model in using a coordinator on the implementation of resolution 1540, the Seminar could prove helpful in the organization of an additional Seminar to seek similar coordination possibilities for the Andean Community region.
- The agenda was arranged in such a manner to allow discussion derived from introductory remarks made by the host country, the 1540 Committee expert and the representative of the OAS.

3. **Highlights**

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 workshop stressed that the Andean Community could encourage a regional approach to develop a better solution in facing security threats through joint efforts by member States.

Such goal would involve the development of plans for the implementation of the obligations of States through effective measures capable of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as other measures that can help states to build a barrier against threats to security in a context of a sub regional organization.

The possibility of having the Andean Community as a focal point within the region could be useful to identify common needs and access to technical assistance requirements as well as available resources for addressing security threats in the region.

The Andean Community event provided an opportunity for States to renew their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery and opened a new approach for sub-regional organizations to help States meet their commitment to control WMD-related materials including penalties for violations.

Additionally the Andean Community States will not only carry further the implementation of Resolution 1540, but will also build capacity in other security issues and economic development areas, including small arms and drug trafficking, that are higher priority challenges in the region

The significance of the role of the sub-regional organizations for the implementation of resolution 1540 was underscored by the participants from the Central American Integration System (SICA) and CARICOM, with which the 1540 Committee has established close cooperation. They explained to the audience the advantages to be part of the process and the relation with participating donors.

Japan, Finland, Canada and the USA gave the audience the information related to their own assistance offered to Latin America and other regions as well as the implications of the international community's efforts to properly implement resolution 1540. In particular the representative of the USA explained the objectives of the 1540 resolution and the commitment of the International community to assist countries in their national implementation process

Representatives of different International Organizations focused their presentations on the role of their entities.

The bilateral segment was an interactive forum to address different international organizations participants for consultations, dialogues and possible assistance to enhance their internal legislative system, control export measures, and possible trainings related to WMD proliferation prevention.

4. Additional comments

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