

Information Note¹

Event: Regional Meeting on Education in the Responsible Application of Knowledge of Dual-Use Chemicals

Organizer: The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Argentina

Date and Venue: 7-9 April, 2014, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participants: *Governmental officials:* Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Suriname

UN (1540 Committee expert)

Academia and other entities: Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College (St. Kitts and Nevis), Dominica State college, Iberoamericana University (Mexico), John F Kennedy University (Argentina), National University of Honduras, Pontificia Universidad Católica (Peru), Renwick and Company Ltd. (Santa Lucia), Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, University de la República (Uruguay), University of Panama, University of Córdoba (Argentina), University of Rosario (Argentina), and University of San Luis (Argentina)

1. Objectives of Participation of 1540 expert:

- To give a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004) to raise awareness of the resolution in the region, especially among those national CWC authorities and academia;
- To engage in discussions with delegates from the region regarding their full and effective national implementation on resolution 1540 (2004), updating their assistance requests, submitting additional information and the possibility of sharing their effective practices.

2. Background

- Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Collaboration between the OPCW Secretariat and the 1540 Group of Experts has increased over the past year, particularly in the area of assistance. The OPCW has recently provided a detailed report to the 1540 Committee on their assistance activities. The 1540 Chair addressed the Chemical Weapons Convention's State Parties Open

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

Ended Working Group meeting on 3 March 2014, which strengthened cooperation between the OPCW and the 1540 Committee.

- During the Third Review Conference of the CWC in April 2013, States Parties to the Convention gave a strong mandate to the OPCW to undertake activities in the fields of education, outreach and awareness-raising. In the political Declaration agreed at the Review Conference, States Parties underlined their determination to “maintain the Convention’s role as a bulwark against chemical weapons; to that end to promote, inter alia, outreach, capacity building, education and public diplomacy.”

3. Assessment

The meeting on “Education in the Responsible Application of Knowledge of Dual-Use Chemicals” was the first regional meeting on education, outreach and awareness-raising in the context of the Third CWC Review Conference. The workshop provided an opportunity for participating States Parties to share information on their national initiatives, to exchange experiences and lessons learned and to confer with the OPCW on issues relating to the implementation of the recommendations made by the Third CWC Review Conference on Education, Outreach and Awareness-Raising. The meeting promoted similar initiatives within the Latin American and Caribbean region, fostered the involvement of those from the education sector in the promotion of responsible chemistry, demonstrated the approaches, tools and materials which are available and stimulated similar discussions within other regional groups of the OPCW. The workshop offered an opportunity for the expert of the 1540 Committee to raise the profile of resolution 1540 (2004) to the regional audience and facilitate the full implementation of the resolution.

4. Additional comments

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