

Information Note¹

Event: Regional workshop on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for South American States

Organizers: Government of Peru and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) / Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC).

Date and venue: 11-13 November 2014, Lima, Peru

Participants: *South American States:* Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. *Donors:* the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union

Other States: Mexico

International organizations: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention (ISU/BWC) (by video presentation).

Regional organizations: Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, (OPANAL). Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), Organization of American States (OAS),

Other participants: Argentine-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), Centre for International Trade and Security of the University of Georgia (CITS), INVAP-Argentine Company involved in nuclear energy development.

United Nations: 1540 Committee Experts, UNODA and UNLIREC.

1. Objectives

- Make a presentation background, objectives, key aspects, obligations and state of implementation and challenges in the resolution 1540 (2004).
- Participate and contribute to the discussions regarding policies, regulations, operations and standards for physical protection and accounting of "related materials".

2. Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to take and enforce, *inter alia*, effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

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.

Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The regional workshop aimed to bring together technical experts and officials from Latin American States, engaged with the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), with a specific focus on policies, regulations, operations and standards for physical protection and accounting of "related materials" in their respective States.

3. Overview

Opening statements were delivered by representatives of **Peru** as host of the workshop, the **Embassy of Republic of Korea** and the **European Union Delegation in Lima** (which together with other countries provided funding for the organization of the workshop), **UNODA**, and by a **1540 Committee** expert on behalf of the Committee. The speakers highlighted the importance of full implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004) in South America as well as the need for regional coordination and sharing of effective practices in this field.

After the welcoming remarks, the documentary film "Weapons of Mass destruction: Threats and Global responses" was shown. A 1540 expert made a presentation of the resolution 1540 (2004). He recalled the key provisions of the resolution, highlighting the obligations derived from the resolution and described the role of the 1540 Committee, supported by its experts, to facilitate match-making between requests and offers of assistance.

Four panel sessions and a round table were conducted on the topic of "**Accounting and Physical Protection (APP) of Related Materials (special focus on cross-disciplinary approaches)**". This segment of the workshop included national presentations on how measures aimed at effective accounting and physical protection of relevant "related materials" are being implemented and strengthened by participating States at the national level as well as current effective practices employed by regional and international organizations. In the presentations covering their national procedures representatives of participating States focused on cross – disciplinary applications and synergies in the field of accounting and physical protection (APP) of related materials and highlighted lessons learned and experience gained. They provided an overview of legislative and enforcement measures their governments have taken, or plan to take, to combat proliferation of WMD and related materials to meet the requirements of the resolution, presented the structure and functions of national agencies and inter-agency mechanisms responsible for physical protection of related materials in nuclear, biological and chemical fields. The wide range of measures taken on national level and aimed at minimizing the risks of smuggling nuclear and radiological materials and on the development of an identification system for dual-use items has been presented. National presentations were followed by the discussions focused on national measures related to physical protection and accounting, in particular relevant legislation and enforcement measures; material reporting and recording techniques; threat assessment strategies; effective designs and methods for systems of physical protection and accounting.

International, regional organizations also presented practices, guidelines and/or regulations in regards to accounting and physical protection of related materials including those practices and approaches that could have cross-discipline applications. Presentations provided by the **IAEA**, **OPCW**, **BWC-ISU**, **ABACC** and **CITS**, provided specific suggestions on the improvement of physical protection and accounting of related materials and outlined their assistance programs and capabilities in support of the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004) in regards to APP. International and regional organizations also stressed the importance of coordination of activities and programs in order to help Member States to ensure that national laws and regulations meet the requirements of the resolution, helping to keep sensitive materials out of the hands of terrorists and other criminals while preserving legitimate commercial and peaceful uses of related materials.

During the session of the panel on “**Technical Assistance and related Effective Practices to Support Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)**”, moderated by the Director of UNLIREC, a discussion of available programs related to technical assistance in areas of APP of related materials including programs of international and regional organizations as well as national programs and assistance offered through non-governmental channels took place. Representatives of **Mexico** and the **United States**, as well as of **OAS** and **UNLIREC** in their presentations addressed issues of synergies and integration of national capacity building in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In a roundtable discussion moderated by UNLIREC and a 1540 expert participants exchanged views regarding future steps to be taken in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004).

4. Additional Comments

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