

Information Note¹

Event: **Facilitation Event for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

Organizers: The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), in cooperation with its UN Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America (LiREC) and with the help of the UNSC 1540 Committee; sponsored by the United States Government and hosted by the Government of Peru

Date and Venue: 9 -11 November 2010, Lima, Peru

Participants: *States* – Officials from different ministries of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru and the United States); *International, regional, and sub-regional organizations* – the IAEA, the OPCW, the UNODC, the OAS, the Central American Integration System (SICA), CARICOM, UNODA, UN LiREC, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts; *Non-government Organizations* – the Center for International Trade and Security of the University of Georgia (CITS/UGA) and the Verification, Research, Training, and Information Centre (VERTIC)

1. Objectives

The objectives of the Event were threefold: (a) to hold intensive discussions between representatives of the 1540 Committee and inter-agency delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru, and between the delegations themselves on the challenges and possibilities in implementing UNSC resolution 1540 (2004); (b) to consult also with a delegation from CARICOM on their regional approach to implementation; and (c) to discuss opportunities for assistance especially in bilateral dialogues, with opportunities to international and regional organizations to make their own contacts.

2. Background

The 1540 Committee was actively involved in five regional or sub-regional seminars in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2005 to 2009, with opportunities for brief *ad hoc* bilateral dialogues with the participating officials. In 2010, the Committee decided to enhance more intensive dialogues and round table discussions with officials from different ministries of Member States, and explored different possibilities for country-specific approaches, including eventual country visits. Accordingly, the Committee welcomed the initiative of the US Government and UNODA to organize such an event and to focus on the four States that had previously hosted regional or sub-regional events on resolution 1540 (2004) – Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru. To streamline discussions in the dialogues and stimulate round table interactions, an indicative list of issues was prepared in advance.

3. Highlights

The agenda was arranged in a manner to allow focused discussion after introductory remarks by the representatives of the OAS, the 1540 Committee and the UNODA. The themes were: (a) capacity building experience and assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean; (b) national interagency cooperation; (c)

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possibilities for country visits and national plans; (d) role of intergovernmental organizations and other entities; (e) interactive discussion on selected issues; and (f) bilateral dialogues.

The delegations of Peru, Costa Rica, Argentina and Brazil took turns to explain their existing national systems and their capacity to proceed with implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in cooperation with other countries in the region. The four delegations explained their respective interagency coordination mechanisms for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), with an indication of the challenges faced and the remedies sought. The usefulness of country visits was explained to participants as a tool for detailed discussions on the status of implementation aimed at concrete outcomes, including the identification of assistance needs. The participating international, regional and sub-region organizations offered briefings on their 1540-related work in the region. An innovation in the workshop was to have both a round table discussion on various issues, followed by discussions based on four specific questions.

The round table was a forum for participating States to share specific experiences with the others, ask questions on specific programmes or practices, or announce their readiness to assist or seek assistance from other countries. In response to the questions posed, the participants commented as follows.

- The 1540 Committee might evaluate the capacity available in the region for mutual help in training and technical assistance and facilitate communication between States on best practices, standards and methods to control illicit activities.
- The OAS and sub-regional organizations were already promoting resolution 1540 (2004) and might intensify their efforts.
- Member States might consider promoting the objectives of resolution 1540 (2004) by adopting an integrated approach to the implementation of overlapping requirements involving also the programmes of the IAEA, the OPCW and other organizations.
- Among the other ideas expressed were: the need for risk assessment and development of action plans by States, and the adoption of a holistic approach to security linking the inter-related dangers from illicit trafficking in weapons and various hazardous materials.

4. **Bilateral dialogues**

The 1540 Committee representative and the experts arranged separate dialogues with the delegations of Costa Rica and Peru to take stock of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and explore further steps. They also conducted a dialogue with the delegation from CARICOM.

5. **Additional information**

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