

Information Note¹

Event:	Joint seminar on resolution 1540 (2004) Spain-Mexico.
Organizers:	Government of Spain in collaboration with the Government of Mexico
Date and Venue:	27-31 January 2014, Madrid, Spain
Participants:	Government of Spain Government of Mexico: (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Navy, Office of the Attorney General, National Commission of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards) <i>Invited States:</i> Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago. <i>International Organizations:</i> 1540 Committee (one expert), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLiREC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

1. **Objectives**

Make a presentation about resolution 1540 (2004).

Participate in the discussions and engage with Spanish and Mexican officials on 1540 relevant topics.

Take note of possible effective practices that could be derived from this joint seminar.

2. **Background**

The Government of Spain invited the 1540 Committee to participate in a joint seminar with officials from Mexico to cover a wide range of topics related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons fields.

3. **Highlights**

The seminar included presentations by Spanish Government officials and International Organizations. It addressed issues regarding export controls and physical protection of nuclear installations, CBRN response, among other 1540 relevant topics.

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.

3.1. Working sessions

The 1540 Committee expert made a presentation of resolution 1540 (2004) highlighting its main obligations.

The representatives of UNODA and UNLiREC briefed participants about their respective efforts in supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The representative of the IAEA made several presentations on the nuclear related topics.

The topics discussed included among others, the evaluation of threats and vulnerabilities: Design Basis Threat (DBT); technological risks and the normative framework for civil protection; protection of critical infrastructures in the framework of countering terrorism; nuclear and chemical accidents, radiological risks; challenges related to prohibitions of tangible and intangible transfers of technology; scenarios and plans in emergency situations; the dispersion of radioactivity in the atmosphere; the threat of biological agents and pathogens as a WMD; codes of conducts for scientists and the establishment of a National Biosafety Authority; the Spanish export control system; cyber security and radiological control at borders.

3.2. On-site visits

Participants also visited the Valdemoro installations of the Spanish Military Police (Guardia Civil) where they observed a CBRN incident simulation exercise (related to the production of biological agents) and the installations of the TEDAX-NRBQ of the Spanish Police.

4. Outcome

The seminar constituted an excellent opportunity for States to share lessons learnt and effective practices derived from the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Participants expressed their appreciation for the organization of the seminar.

5. Additional comments

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