

Information Note¹

Event: Official Launch of Mexico's 1540 National Implementation Action Plan.

Organizers: Government of Mexico

Date and venue: 16 December 2014, Mexico City, Mexico

Participants: *Government of Mexico:*

Office of the President of the Republic, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health, Office of the Attorney General, National Security Council, Tax Administration Service, National Commission for Nuclear Safety and Safeguards, National Coordination for Civil Protection, Financial Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Institute of Nuclear Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Communications and Transportation, Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risk.

Members of the Mexican Congress

Representatives of the Governments of: Chile, Panama, Peru, Spain and the United States.

International Organizations: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), 1540 Group of Experts, OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America GAFILAT.

Academia:

National Autonomous University of Mexico, National Polytechnic Institute, Postgraduate School in Agricultural Sciences, Chapingo Autonomous University, Mexican Society of Phytopathology.

Industry:

Jayor Laboratories, Aserpharm, Ipsen, Unipharma, Phytomedicamenta, Farmacopea, National Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry.

1. **Background:**

The OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the 1540 Group of Experts have been working to support OAS Member States in their implementation of key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), including by supporting their the development of National Implementation Action Plans.

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.

Mexico has been participating in this OAS 1540 project. As a result of these efforts, in 2012 Mexico presented a Plan of Comprehensive Implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and on 16 December 2014 the formal launching event took place.

2. Objectives for the participating 1540 Committee experts:

Make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004): background, objectives, key aspects, obligations and state of implementation.

Participate in a roundtable on 1540 obligations relating to export controls.

3. Overview

The meeting was opened by, Ms. Ana Paola Barbosa, Chief of Staff of the Vice-Ministry for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During her speech, Ms. Barbosa, recalled Mexico's adherence in 2013 to various export control regimes, i.e. the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australia Group. She also referred to Mexico's current efforts aimed at developing a Strategic Trade Law (included as part of Mexico's 1540 NAP).

Regarding border controls Ms. Barbosa indicated that Mexico had recently enhanced its high technology equipment at the main border posts. She also referred to efforts carried out by the General Attorney's Office and the Financial Intelligence Unit regarding the countering of proliferation financing. She recalled Mexico's commitment to general and complete disarmament and indicated that resolution 1540 (2004) complements the legal framework established by the major WMD treaties.

The Executive Secretary of the CICTE referred to his Organisation's efforts in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Americas, highlighting its support for the development of the National Implementation Action Plans of Mexico and Colombia.

A presentation was also made by a representative of the UNODA on his office's efforts in support of States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the short film "Weapons of Mass Destruction: Threat and Global responses" was also shown to participants.

The 1540 expert made a presentation on resolution 1540, highlighting the context in which the resolution was adopted, the obligations derived from it, as well as the work being carried out by the 1540 Committee to support the implementation of the resolution by States.

A detailed presentation was made by a representative of the High Level Committee on Disarmament, Terrorism and International Security (CANDESTI), on the development of the Mexico 1540 National Implementation Action Plan, and the future activities contained therein.

A representative of the Spain's State Tax Administration Agency made a presentation on the Spanish and European Union's Legal Framework for export controls.

3.1 Roundtables

Two roundtables were held. The first included national stakeholders and international experts (UNODA, 1540 Group of Experts, CICTE, GAFILAT, US Department of State, Spain's State Tax Administration Agency) and was moderated by Ambassador Juan Sandoval, Director General for the United Nations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the discussions, panellists gave their views on the challenges for

the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular with regard to export controls, risk analysis, licensing procedures for strategic goods, “catch-all clause” and counter proliferation financing. The importance of national administrative and penal sanctions for breaches of national legislation regarding export controls and counter proliferation financing was also addressed.

The second roundtable was moderated by Ms. Maria Antonieta Jaquez, Deputy Director General for the United Nations General Assembly and Disarmament. It included national stakeholders as well as members of industry and academia. The representatives from academia stated that they are used to working with controlled equipment and restricted items, and that they did not see a contradiction between research and security. They indicated that knowledge should have no boundaries, only its application.

4. **Additional comments**

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