

Information Note¹

- Event:** Summer School on Disarmament and Non Proliferation
- Organizers:** Government of Mexico, The Diplomatic Academy of Mexico "*Instituto Matías Romero*", in cooperation with the Government of Switzerland, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS).
- Date and venue:** 13-17 July 2015, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Participants:** *Government of Mexico:* Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defence.
- Students from the following States:* Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.
- Presenters:**
- States:* Mexico (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and United States (Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation)
- International Organizations:* United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- Academia:* *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México* (ITAM).
- Other:* The International Committee of the Red Cross; British American Security Information Council (BASIC); International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), International Physicians for the Social Responsibility-IPPNW, James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP).

1. Background

The 14th Programme of work of the 1540 Committee establishes that the Committee will, *inter alia*, consider and seize opportunities, as appropriate, for direct interaction, with the consent of the State concerned, with relevant industries and industry groups, academia and civil society.

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.

The Government of Mexico, through the *Instituto Matías Romero* invited diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean to the second session of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

The officer in charge of the Directorate General for the United Nations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, sent a letter, dated 16 July 2015, to the 1540 Chair requesting him to appoint a 1540 Committee expert to make a presentation during this course.

A 1540 expert participated in the first session of this Summer School project.

2. Overview

This was the second edition of a Summer School aimed at 26 diplomats of 24 Latin American and Caribbean States. The objective of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing these courses is to provide an academic space to discuss all issues related to nuclear weapons and the importance of nuclear disarmament and to support the United Nations efforts in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The programme included a series of sessions devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation topics and a specific session on the study of resolution 1540 (2004) and its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 1540 expert made a presentation about resolution 1540 (2004) and its obligations. He explained the different areas of work of the Committee and its experts. For the latter, he referred to the analysis carried out by the experts in updating the matrices for consideration and approval of the Committee. He made a special reference to the comprehensive review process. He also referred to activities carried out by the Committee in the region and mentioned the training course for Points of Contact scheduled to take place in the Latin American region and the offer of the Government of Chile to host this course.

Students asked questions related to the match-making mechanism of the 1540 Committee, the prosecution of non-state actors involved in proliferation activities and possible actions that could follow cases of non-compliance with the resolution.

In the margins of this event, the 1540 expert had also the opportunity to meet with officials of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss activities derived from Mexico's voluntary National Implementation Action Plan.

Additional comments

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