

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop on Legislative Gap Analysis vis-à-vis UNSCR 1540: Status of Regulatory Framework in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Date and Venue:** 22-23 September 2011; UN Plaza, New York
- Organizers:** The Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia (CITS/UGA) and CARICOM Secretariat; sponsored by U.S. Department of State
- Participants:** *States:* Senior officials from Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia; Norway, United States
International Organizations: CARICOM 1540 Coordinator, CARICOM Secretariat (General Counsel), Carnegie Corporation (NY), CITS/UGA, CTBTO, Stimson Center, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UNODC/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), VERTIC, 1874 Committee experts, three 1540 Committee experts.

1. Objectives

- Make presentations and discuss legislative obligations of resolution 1540, noting complementarities with obligations under the multilateral international treaties to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.
- Dialogue with the CARICOM 1540 Coordinator on cooperation in continuing dialogues with this region's States, including on potential country visits.
- Update and maintain contacts and dialogue with the officials from the Permanent Missions of the CARICOM Member States and capitals, and from the CARICOM Secretariat, on implementation of resolution 1540 requirements.

2. Background

The workshop was the first of two to discuss the analysis by CITS/UGA being undertaken as part of the assistance to CARICOM in support of its Member States implementation of resolution 1540, focusing on strategic trade controls. This assistance-oriented workshop aimed to discuss the initial analysis of gaps that have been identified in the regulatory framework of controls related to OPs 3(d) and 6 of resolution 1540 so better to inform the development of draft model legislation that contributes to these States' overall implementation of resolution 1540.

3. Highlights

The workshop² opened with the presentation of the project "CARICOM: Working Together Toward Security" led by the Center for International Trade & Security of the University of Georgia (CITS/UGA). The presentation underlined that CARICOM Member States face similar threats and share similar resource constraints. Therefore, CARICOM Member States are pursuing regional solutions: a) to use the available resources more efficiently and b) to close

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.

² Information at www.uga.edu/cits/programs/caricompres.html.

administrative and enforcement loopholes across national systems that can be exploited by criminals.

Opening speakers also included The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Bahamas, who mentioned measures and practices his country had taken for implementing resolution 1540, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communication of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged the positive effort on assistance of the 1540 Committee regarding the regional approach to implementation of resolution 1540 with the appointment of a regional coordinator in CARICOM. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago supported the request for a legal expert to assist CARICOM Member States in drafting the Reference Legal Framework, or model legislation, to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540.

The General Counsel of the CARICOM Secretariat spoke on the role of CARICOM in addressing security in addition to trade and economic integration. The issue of proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons is continued to be treated as a priority to regional security.

Opening the second day of the workshop, the 1540 Committee experts presented the contents of resolution 1540 (2004), focusing in particular on the added value of resolution 1540 (2004) in the international framework of instruments against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, underlining the complementarities as well as aspects of divergence. Using the data compiled in the 1540 Committee matrices, the experts presented the status of implementation of the resolution in the region.

Presentations were also made by organizations OPCW, UNODC/TPB and VERTIC, which indicated the assistance programmes of their respective entities in the legislative area and which could be a contribution to implementing resolution 1540. A representative from the CTBTO noted that the Tlateloco Treaty, which the States in the region have ratified, as contributing to meeting some requirements of resolution 1540.

During discussion, a representative of CITS/UGA underlined the difficulty to coordinate different providers, avoiding duplication and overlapping. Caribbean country representatives welcomed the idea of a legislative model indicating that such a model would provide a basis or platform from which States could choose what they need to implement requirements for resolution 1540 in accordance with their national legislative framework.

In the concluding plenary, a 1540 Committee expert summarized various themes arising during the workshop and ways forward, including placing resolution 1540 on CARICOM Secretariat level meetings and in the curriculum of treaty training workshops.

4. Bilateral Consultations

1540 Committee experts held dialogues with several delegations on their national implementation efforts, including for updating their 1540 Committee-approved matrices.

5. Additional Comments

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