

Information Note¹

- Event: Workshop with officials of the Government of Panama on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the development of National Implementation Action Plan
- Organizers: Government of Panama and the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).
- Date and venue: 18 December 2014, Panama City, Panama
- Participants: Government of Panama:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Health, Aero naval National Service, National Security Council, National Customs Authority, Maritime Authority of Panama, Civil Aviation Authority, National Authority of the Panama Canal, Public Prosecutors Office, National Police.
- International participants:
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), CICTE and the 1540 Group of Experts.
- Representatives of the United States Government (Department of State and EXBS Programme (Panama))

1. Objectives

- Support the development of a 1540 National Implementation Action Plan by Panama.
- Exchange information on the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Provide expert advice on the obligations of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), and the role of the 1540 Committee.

2. 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 (NAP) to implement the resolution.

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 and Colombia have 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). On 6 November 2014 Colombia officially launched its 1540 National Implementation Action Plan; Mexico did likewise on 16 December 2014.

The meeting in Panama brought together relevant national authorities and international experts to share effective practices and present recommendations to better implement resolution 1540 (2004).

3. Overview

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Luis Miguel Hincapié. During his speech the vice minister mentioned Panama's experience in complying with United Nations Security Council resolutions, highlighting his State's experience in the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cargo vessel, Chong Chon Gang. He also referred to the establishment of an Inter-institutional "Non-proliferation Group" that will be in charge of drafting an executive decree for the control of dual use items in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004).

A Senior Programme Manager of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism referred to the activities carried out by the OAS in support of resolution 1540 (2004).

The 1540 expert made a presentation on the resolution 1540, its background context, obligations, and implementation by States. He briefed participants on the elements that some States have decided to include in their voluntary National Implementation Action Plans, making particular reference to the recently developed plans by Colombia and Mexico.

A UNODA representative informed participants about activities carried out by his office in support of resolution 1540 (2004) and indicated the willingness of UNODA to support future efforts by States to advance the implementation of the resolution.

A presentation on export controls of strategic goods was made by the Regional Advisor of the Export Control and Related Border Security Program of the United States Embassy in Panama. A representative of the United States State Department shared his State's experience in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

An expert of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) explained measures that States need to take to comply with resolution 1540 and shared her experience regarding the development of National Implementation Action Plans in other States in the Americas particularly highlighting her recent experience in the development of Mexico's National Implementation Action Plan.

4. Additional comments

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