

Information Note¹

- Event:** Meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Organizer:** Committee on Hemispheric Security of the OAS
- Date and Venue:** Washington, D.C., United States, 17 January 2013
- Participants:** Member States of the OAS
OAS Secretariat
1540 Committee member and expert
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Stimson Center

1. Objectives of participation

- Exchange views on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by OAS Member States.
- Discuss with the OAS Secretariat possible opportunities for future co-operation.

2. Background

- Since 2005, the OAS has adopted resolutions that support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- The meeting was held in accordance with OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES.2735 (XLII-O/12) “Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach”.

3. Highlights

- During the discussions, delegations raised the importance of cooperation and assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540 and mentioned specific activities carried out by OAS Members to support other States of the region. Delegations also stressed the productive relationships with regional and subregional organizations such as the OAS, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as efforts for the development of National Implementation Action Plans.
- The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, highlighted the involvement of the OAS in advocating for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the hemisphere and the role of that Organization in capacity building.

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.

He referred positively to the work carried out by the 1540 Committee as well as by the Stimson Center. He also commended the work of the regional coordinators, such as the coordinator for the CARICOM.

- The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Mr. Neil Klopfenstein, referred to CICTE's mandate on providing technical assistance and supporting OAS Member States' efforts related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

He mentioned the strategic partnership of UNODA, CICTE and the 1540 Group of Experts to implement technical assistance and capacity building through, *inter alia*, a pilot project in the Americas to facilitate Member States' efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, topics dealt with included legal requirements on non-proliferation of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) materials, international best practices on export controls and licensing of CBRN materials, crisis management, physical protection of facilities, specialized border controls, health issues and international cooperation on CBRN issues.

- Ms. Soledad Urruela Arenales (Guatemala), in her capacity as member of the 1540 Committee, delivered a statement on behalf of the Chairman of the 1540 Committee, Ambassador Kim Sook, addressing the following topics:
 - Evolution of the 1540 framework.
 - Implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by OAS Member States.
 - Future work of the 1540 Committee.
- The 1540 Committee expert made a presentation on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Americas and the work of the 1540 Committee regarding assistance. He recalled the encouragement to States by the Security Council to prepare on a voluntary basis National Implementation Action Plans. He also shared some conclusions that can be derived from the 1540 Matrices of the OAS Member States.
- The representative of the UNODA informed the meeting about the support of her Office to national and international 1540 implementation efforts. She also referred to the joint activities by UNODA, the 1540 Committee Group of Experts and CICTE to assist States of the region in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). She also addressed the topic of cooperation between international organizations as well as the engagement with civil society.
- The representative of Stimson Center addressed topics such as border security, strategic trade controls and international health regulations.

4. Additional Comments

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