

UNLIREC Newsletter

UNLIREC, as a regional office of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, seeks to advance the cause of practical disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of its commitment to support Member States in their implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

South American regional workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The Government of Peru, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) through its Regional Centre, UNLIREC, hosted a regional workshop on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for South American States from 11-13 November 2014 in Lima.



The Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, unanimously adopted resolution 1540 (2004) on 28 April 2004 obliging all States to enforce effective measures and

establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. To this end, States are required to develop and maintain appropriate effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport and to develop and maintain appropriate physical protection measures.

The workshop in Lima - organized with funds provided by the European Union, the Republic of Korea, Norway and the United States of America - was the first workshop for South American States on the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) focusing on the issue of effective physical protection and accounting of related materials.

Representatives of eleven Member States, as well as international and regional

organizations attended the three-day workshop. Participating States engaged in information exchange and experience sharing, and discussed effective national

practices for implementing Resolution 1540 (2004), as well as cooperation with relevant international and regional partner organizations.

"International cooperation in upholding the provisions of resolution 1540 is essential. The United Nations is mobilizing all stakeholders to join efforts aimed at preventing WMD proliferation and terrorism, and [...] stands ready to strengthen its partnership with all those who share the objectives of resolution 1540."

-UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon (2013)-

UNLIREC and Trinidad and Tobago convene national roundtable on strengthening the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)



On 13-14 October 2014, UNLIREC convened a national roundtable on strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Trinidad and Tobago. The roundtable was held in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, with the financial support of the US Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. The meeting formed part of UNLIREC's 1540 Assistance Package for Caribbean States and was a follow up to the 1540 Committee's visit to Trinidad and Tobago in 2013.

The roundtable brought together over 25 representatives from various institutions and agencies in Trinidad and Tobago with responsibilities in 1540-related matters, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Health, Energy and Energy Affairs, Science and Technology, the Office of the Attorney General and representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, among others. This meeting enabled UNLIREC to not only share the findings and recommendations

of its national study on the country's legislative framework on 1540, but also actively engage with different stakeholders, gather additional information on the implementation of the resolution in the country, and determine a series of priority areas for the delivery of further technical assistance in the coming months.

Representatives were forthcoming in presenting the specific challenges faced by their respective institutions, disclosing information related to the domestic legislative and regulatory framework, as well as operational and enforcement challenges. Participants welcomed further support and a proactive engagement by UNLIREC to strengthen the implementation of the resolution.

UNLIREC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to further strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the country.

International Maritime Organization and UNLIREC work with the Government of Grenada to enhance maritime and port security



UNLIREC has been working with the Government of Grenada to provide legal and technical assistance under its 1540 Assistance Package since early 2014. During the 1540 national roundtable held in June 2014, UNLIREC and Government stakeholders identified a series of existing training needs and institutional challenges and priorities with respect to non-proliferation issues, including border control measures to enhance security at ports and effective ways to deal with small vessel security. Consequently, UNLIREC liaised with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to organize a two-day table top exercise (29-30 October 2014) to identify good practice and strengthen maritime and port security measures.



The exercise brought together 24 government officials with responsibilities in maritime and port security, including the National Disaster Management Agency, the Port Authority and various departments in the Royal Grenadian Police

Force, including the Coast Guard, Port Security, Customs and Excise, Immigration and Fire Department. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Business, the Honourable Nickolas Skeete, and the US Charge D'Affaires, Mr. Louis Crishock, were present at the opening ceremony, thus reflecting Grenada's level of commitment to strengthening implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

During the exercise, dialogue revolved around the current challenges facing the country in addressing port and maritime security while, crisis/incident management training and risk management, as well as the development of protocols and contingency plans were highlighted as priorities. A number of other issues and challenges were discussed, including the need for improved inter-agency coordination and utilization of resources, targeted exercises for senior level personnel (policy and managerial level), training for first responders, assistance to enhance the response of the Coast Guard, strengthening of related legislation and broad based education on existing legislation so that officials have a comprehensive understanding of the relevant laws and have a legal basis for intervention if necessary and continuous drills/similar table top exercises.

UNLIREC will continue to work together with the government to address these issues within the framework of its 1540 Assistance Package and the voluntary national action plan currently being drafted by Grenada.

UNLIREC also looks forward to collaborating further with the International Maritime Organization and other agencies to strengthen border controls across the region.

UNLIREC supports WMD non-proliferation in the Caribbean

UNLIREC conducted a joint mission to Belize in August in collaboration with the US Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program to meet with Belizean 1540 government stakeholders to explore interest in UNLIREC's 1540 Assistance Package. Similar exploratory dialogue was carried out with government representatives from the Dominican Republic in mid-2014. Both sets of consultations have led to requests from the two governments for UNLIREC to review the national legislation and present recommendations, as well as discuss next steps and a plan of action for strengthening the implementation of the resolution through training and capacity-building in legislative and other areas.

In addition, Canada and CARICOM/IMPACS organized a two-day capacity-building workshop in September in Trinidad and Tobago on WMD interdiction aimed at CARICOM Member States. The workshop emphasized the need for inter-agency cooperation and coordination across the region, as well as capacity-building and the implementation of controls to prevent WMD proliferation, their components and delivery systems. The organizers invited UNLIREC to deliver a presentation on its capacity-building initiatives and content of its 1540 Assistance Package. UNLIREC also seized the opportunity to encourage authorities to request its assistance to strengthen 1540 implementation in their respective countries.

UNLIREC and Jamaica hold national working sessions with key stakeholders to review 1540 (2004) related legislation



On 2-5 December 2014, UNLIREC, in collaboration with the Government of

Jamaica, convened a series of technical legislative work sessions and a national

roundtable on strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Kingston, Jamaica.

The technical working sessions, held on the 2-3 December, brought together officials from various institutions and agencies which have responsibilities in 1540-related matters, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of National Security, The Ministry of Science Technology, Energy and Mining, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, the Bureau of Standards and the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences.

During this two-day work session, UNLIREC, together with a 1540 Committee Expert and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), engaged in discussions with government representatives on proposed draft legislation on biological and nuclear issues.

During the working sessions, UNLIREC was able to present its recommendations on the proposed draft legislation and existing domestic legal framework. Together with VERTIC and the 1540 Committee Expert, discussions were also had on the possible

approaches to enactment of 1540-related legislation and the continued significance of the resolution. Government representatives indicated their acceptance of UNLIREC's recommendations during the meeting and highlighted the importance of enacting effective legislation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

On 5 December, a national roundtable was held with a broader group of stakeholders from both the enforcement and policy level. Officials expressed specific challenges currently facing the country, as it relates to border controls and the training of immigration officials.

Jamaica aims to continue its work on the drafting of legislation in chemical, biological and nuclear matters in an effort to strengthen the implementation of Resolution 1540. UNLIREC stands ready to further collaborate with the Jamaican government in the near future.

These meetings were held with the financial support of the US Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation and formed part of UNLIREC's 1540 Assistance Package for Caribbean States.

