

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Event:** Cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Organizer:** Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE-OAS)

**Date and Venue:** 20 – 21 February 2024

**Participants:** International organizations: UN Office for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union - European External Action Service (EEAS), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC-ISU), World Customs Organization (WCO), 1540 Committee (The Chair and a member of the 1540 Group of Experts)

Regional organizations: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT)

National agencies: Germany (Federal Authority for Economic Affairs and Export Control/BAFA), U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Energy (National Nuclear Security Administration), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Non-governmental organizations: International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (UMD START), Stimson Center, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control

### **Background**

On 17 January 2024, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him to take part in a regional coordination meeting of stakeholders involved with implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). With a letter of 6 February 2024, the invitation was extended to the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee.

The objective of the meeting was to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination among key organisations implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in the region, building on the success of similar meetings held in 2019 and 2022.

This meeting was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee as follows:

- Operative paragraph 19 of resolution 2325 (2016) urges States as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organisations to inform the 1540 Committee, as appropriate, of areas in which they are able to provide assistance, and calls upon States as well as such organisations, if they have not done so previously, to provide the Committee with information on their ongoing assistance programmes relevant to resolution 1540 (2004);

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Operative paragraph 21 of resolution 2663 (2022) urges the 1540 Committee, using its full expertise, to promote the facilitation of technical assistance through, as appropriate, organizing, co-organizing, participating in or supporting international and regional assistance conferences, which bring together Member States that request assistance with those offering assistance, and further encourages Member States, including those in the region with relevant expertise, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in a position to do so, to support such efforts;
- Operative paragraph 23 of resolution 2663 (2022) continues to call upon relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to designate, provide and update, as appropriate, to the 1540 Committee with a Point of Contact or Coordinator for Resolution 1540 (2004); and encourages them to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee and Member States on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

### **Highlights**

The opening remarks were delivered by the CICTE Executive Secretary and the Chair of the 1540 Committee. Afterwards, OAS and representatives from different organizations provided overviews of their ongoing projects as well as recent and planned activities related to the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean. The participating 1540 Committee Expert delivered a presentation on the status of implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean and on the Committee's assistance mechanism.

Following the updates, an interactive discussion to reflect on priorities and concerns for the region as well as on possible ways to coordinate assistance efforts and to avoid duplications was held. As one of the meeting outcomes, OAS prepared a Calendar for 2024, combining all intended activities in support of implementation of resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Calendar currently includes 47 activities, showing the high dedication and active engagement of the OAS and other organisations in supporting States in the region in their efforts to implement the resolution.

The participation of the 1540 Committee in the cooperation meeting was an opportunity to promote the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Further, to highlight that resolution 1540 recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing provisions of the resolution and that the most recent resolution 2663 (2022) welcomes efforts by international, regional and subregional organizations in supporting Member States in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The special importance and usefulness of the cooperation meeting were highlighted several times throughout the meeting, in particular taking into account limited resources of States and assistance providers.

Future regular cooperation meetings would be desirable not only for the Latin America and the Caribbean but also for other regions as well.

### **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).