

## **A Pro Bono Opportunity to Support Legislative Implementation Assistance for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean**

### ***UN Security Council Resolution 1540***

Under UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) (UNSCR 1540), all States are required to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors who attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

A critical starting point for any government is the adoption of national legislation to prohibit activities involving the proliferation of such weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as any attempts to engage in such activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them. This may be achieved by amending penal measures to criminalise and punish these activities. UNSCR 1540 also calls for the establishment of a national legal framework to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. This framework must cover related materials and should include the following elements:

- a system to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport;
- effective physical protection measures;
- effective border controls and law enforcement measures; and
- effective national export and trans-shipment controls.

UNSCR 1540 thus addresses several areas of national law including criminal law, export-import and transfers control, regulatory systems for dual-use materials and requisite enforcement measures. The Resolution also provides for matchmaking assistance to States in order to facilitate full and effective implementation.

### ***Legislative Implementation Assistance for UNSCR 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean***

With funding from Global Affairs Canada's Global Partnership Program, [VERTIC](#) and the [Stimson Center](#) are implementing a two-phase project during 2016-17 in several States in Latin American and the Caribbean. The project will raise awareness regarding national obligations under UNSCR 1540; support States with a comprehensive UNSCR 1540 legislative gap analysis; and provide focussed and individually tailored UNSCR 1540 legislative assistance. The Stimson Center is in the process of reaching out to States to identify those interested in receiving such assistance from VERTIC in cooperation with pro bono partners.

### ***How You Can Help***

The Stimson Center and VERTIC are looking for law firms, private legal practitioners and law schools interested in potentially assisting States in their legislative implementation of UNSCR 1540 and in helping to develop UNSCR 1540 knowledge and legislative expertise locally. VERTIC will survey the project States' existing laws and regulations for national implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), certain legal instruments to secure nuclear and other radioactive material and the related provisions of UNSCR

1540, using VERTIC's in-house templates, to identify gaps and areas requiring strengthening. Co-operation with pro bono partners particularly with core expertise on strategic trade controls is sought to complement VERTIC's legislative assistance activities. Pro bono partners with core expertise in the prevention of WMD proliferation financing are also encouraged to participate.

Co-operation will include reviewing and commenting on the legislation surveys and recommendations that VERTIC prepares, focusing in particular on measures to control transfers of chemical, biological, nuclear and other radioactive (CBRN) materials and dual-use equipment and technology. The Stimson Center will facilitate and VERTIC will oversee pro bono partner activities. Pro bono work may be performed on an ad hoc or continual basis in agreement with VERTIC and Stimson. To the extent possible, VERTIC and the Stimson Center will try to accommodate pro bono partners' requests to work with particular countries in order to draw upon existing, or to develop new, expertise and contacts. A Memorandum of Understanding will define the confidentiality and intellectual property requirements related to the project.

***For Further Information***

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