



Security Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2023
English
Original: Spanish

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)

Note verbale dated 9 May 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and has the honour to transmit herewith the joint press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, in which they announce the establishment of the National Authority for the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (see annex).

In that regard, the Permanent Mission hereby informs the secretariat that the establishment of this National Authority will enable Uruguay to assume its responsibilities as a State party to the aforementioned Convention and under Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The next steps to be taken by Uruguay will be to approve a list of human and animal pathogens and toxins, a list of plant pathogens and a list of dual-use biological equipment and related technology and software, and to strengthen its internal legal structure for the implementation of the obligations set out in the Convention and in Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 9 May 2023 from the
Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed
to the Committee**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization
of American States**

**The Eastern Republic of Uruguay establishes its National
Authority for the implementation of the Biological and Toxin
Weapons Convention**

On 18 January 2023, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay officially published Decree No. 016/2023 on the establishment of the National Authority, which is playing a key role in the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Uruguay is one of the first countries in the region to take this initiative, which will enable it to assume its responsibilities as a State party to the aforementioned Convention and under Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, under the biosafety and biosecurity project financed by the European Union, held meetings with the Uruguayan authorities, during which it was established that a series of measures needed to be undertaken to bring the internal legal framework of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay into line with international operating standards regarding the matters regulated by the Biological Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism supported and assisted the Government of Uruguay over the course of two years in its work to establish an inter-agency commission serving as the Authority for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The next challenges to be addressed will be the approval of a list of human and animal pathogens and toxins, a list of plant pathogens and a list of dual-use biological equipment and related technology and software, and the strengthening of the internal legal structure to implement the obligations set out in the Convention and in Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), in line with best international practices.

The work of the Inter-Agency Commission of Uruguay, in addition to focusing efforts on meeting international commitments, will also be useful with a view to sharing and presenting this process to other countries in the region that are facing similar challenges.
