

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004):

Identification of effective implementation practices after a Decade of its Existence

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Latin America and UNSCR 1540

Session II. An Overview of a Decade of Existence of
the UNSCR 1540 from Regional Perspectives



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1540 implementation in Latin America

Central +

8 sovereign states
(incl Mexico)

Caribbean

13 sovereign states
17 dependent territories

South

13 sovereign states
3 dependent territories

Latin America

34 countries + 20 dependencies

590m population

Vast and Complex 'region'

... geographically

... politically

... economically

... industrially and S&T base



Map for 'Latin America', English speaking Belize, Jamaica, and Guyana; and Dutch speaking Suriname are not shaded. Source: Wikicommons

Context of the implementation

1967 Tlatelolco Treaty *The first regional treaty prohibiting NW in a populated area of the world, signed by all states of the region.*

Latin America used to be source of **concern over WMD proliferation**

Argentina and Brazil NW programmes, both “threshold countries”

Both had ballistic missile programmes in the early 1980s

Both refused to join the NPT, regarding it as discriminatory and unfair

In the 1990s Argentina and Brazil, along with South Africa, became examples of proliferation “rollback”

1991 Peru launched initiative seeking a WMD-FZ, and implementation of confidence- & security-building measures (CSBMs).

Cartagena Declaration on WMD in LatAm, Caribbean, Andean

Declaration of Mendoza on CBW, including establishment of national inspection mechanisms

*first Brazil, Argentina, and Chile;
later Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay*

Context of the implementation

1998 Declaration of MERCOSUR as a Zone of Peace

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) declared its geographic region free of WMD and a “zone of peace”

“The consensus regarding the banning of WMD in Latin America is profound. It rests on the view that the image of the region as a zone of peace is an asset and on attempts by the major countries to redefine their roles in the international system.”

Monica Herz, 2008

Socio Political Context of 1540 implementation in Latin America

Regional issues

Unholy trinity (Finlay)

Small arms proliferation

Narcotics trafficking

Youth/Criminal gangs

Corruption

Deficits in *Capacity* and
Institutional structures

Porous/inaccessible borders

Ungoverned spaces, and
Pockets of fragility in
otherwise stable countries

Governance issues

“Main threats in the region in terms of proliferation are the **presence and expansion of organized criminal networks** involved in drugs and weapons trafficking that could **exploit their routes and resources for proliferation purposes**” *Regional Organization Official, 2014*



Above: Example of existing smuggling routes. Seized submarine built by smugglers, Colombian authorities said it was to be used to transport 8 tonnes of cocaine illegally into Mexico. (Photo Jaime Saldarriaga, Reuters, February 2011)

Below: Border between the U.S. and Mexico. Tremendous amounts of resources invested in failing attempts to secure this border, yet it is still porous and a major trafficking route; other areas, e.g. Tri-Border Area (Argentina; Brazil; Paraguay) very hard to control effectively. (Photo: N. Neuhaus, BostonGlobe)



Socio Political Context of 1540 implementation in Latin America

UNODC most recent murder rates (Worldwide)

Rank	Country	per 100'000	Region
1	Honduras	92	Central America
2	El Salvador	69	Central America
3	Ivory Coast	57	Western Africa
4	Venezuela	45	South America
5	Belize	41	Central America
6	Jamaica	41	Caribbean
7	U.S. Virgin Islands	39	Caribbean
8	Guatemala	39	Central America
9	Saint Kitts and Nevis	38	Caribbean
10	Zambia	38	Eastern Africa
11	Bahamas	37	Caribbean
--	United States	04.7	North America
--	India	03.5	Asia
--	Germany	00.8	Europe

Violent deaths per 100'000 by Country

Violent deaths per 100'000 since 1995

Violent deaths per 100'000 by City

Violent death by city per 100'000 (Worldwide)

Rank	City	Country	2012
1	Acapulco		179
2	La Ceiba		157
3	San Pedro Sula		146
4	Tumaco		140
5	Tocoa		126
6	Quibdó		110
7	Tuluá		107
8	Siguatopeque		107
9	El Progreso		100
10	Comayagua		98
11	Puerto Cortés		88
12	Tegucigalpa		88
13	Chigoga		75
14	Chigoga		68
15	Enkom		63
16	Medellin		52
17	Cape Town		48
18	Medellin		48
19	Medellin		48
20	Rionegro		46

Top 10 Highest Homicide Rates by Country since 1995 (Worldwide)

Rank	Country	Year	per 100'000	Count
1	El Salvador	1995	139	7,977
2	El Salvador	1996	117	7,765
3	El Salvador	1997	117	6,573
4	El Salvador	1998	117	6,573
5	Honduras	2011	92	6,239
6	Honduras	2010	92	6,239
7	Colombia	1996	71	4,371
8	El Salvador	2009	71	4,371
9	Honduras	2009	71	4,371
10	Colombia	2002	70	4,371
10	El Salvador	2011	70	4,371

Latin America is among the most violent regions in the world – these illustrative figures can be argued with over their accurate reflection, over their data collection, and the commensurability of their sources, specific ranking, etc. – what can't be argued with is the overall trend of sustained and horrendous violence in scale and intensity in the region...

Socio Political Context of 1540 implementation in Latin America

*Urban environments are increasingly serving as the source of insecurity, and focus of acts of organised violence. Chronically violent cities, such as Ciudad Juárez, Port-au-Prince, Kingston, Medellin, and Rio de Janeiro, to name a few, **exhibit at times some of the key characteristics of conventional armed conflict.***

*In these urban environments, or parts thereof, state control breaks down. These spaces represent pockets of fragility in otherwise stable states – **ungoverned or ungovernable spaces.***

- **endemic** in Latin America and **intensifying**
- ...a more general **shift in the nature and character of modern conflict** – tied to, *inter alia*, **rapid urbanisation**, fragmentation
- Thus also **relevant to other regions** in particular Asia, and Africa

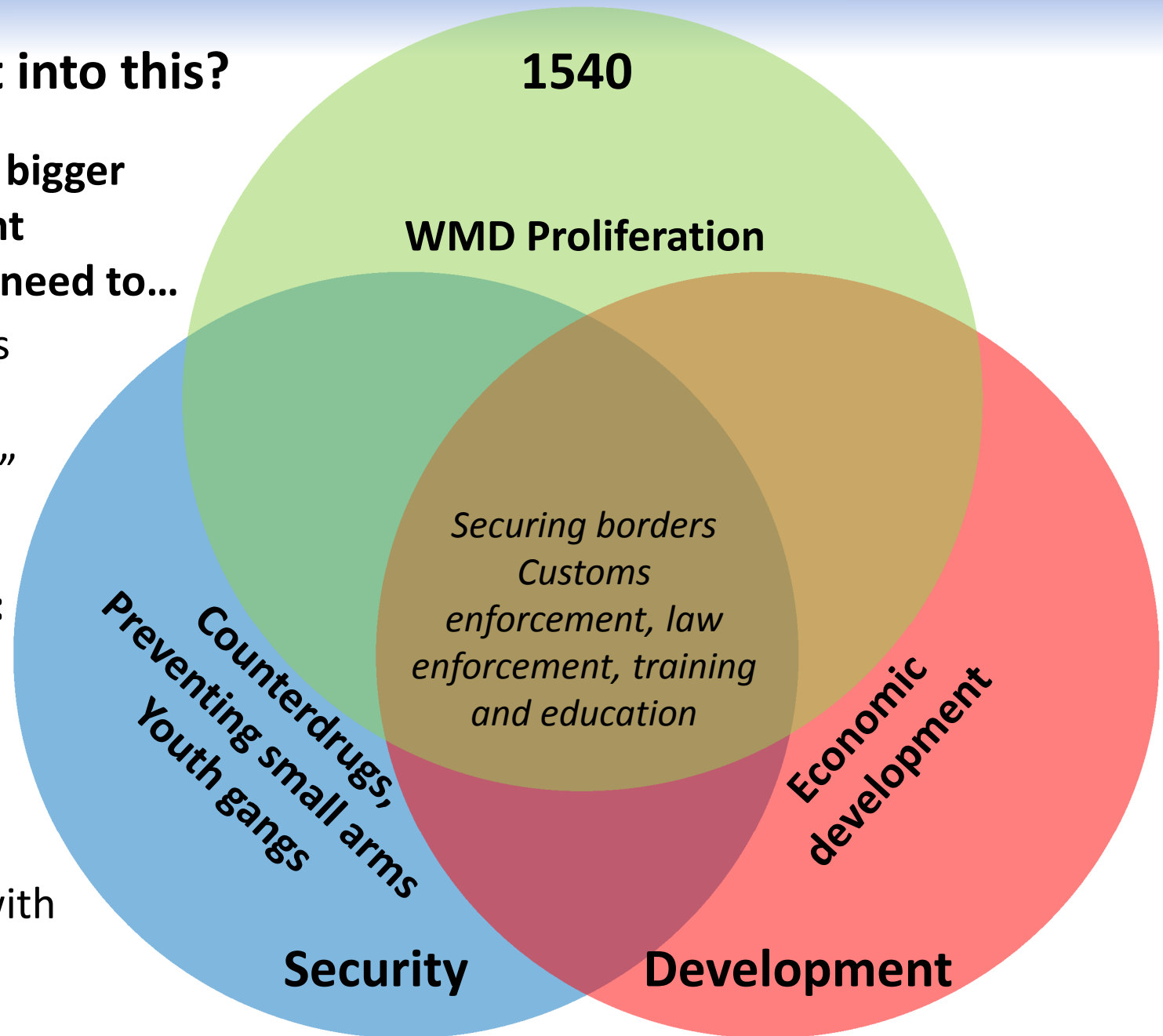
How does 1540 fit into this?

1540 as a part of the bigger picture. To implement effectively there is a need to...

- ...exploit synergies
- ...utilise overlap
- ...raise “relevance”

1540 can be used to:

- **Leverage** existing initiatives
- Ensure **buy-in** by aligning implementation with existing priorities



UNSCR 1540 implementation in Latin America

Two main challenges face the efforts to implement 1540 in Latin America:

1. Lack of, or limited, capacity and resources of states

particularly states that lack a modern and efficient bureaucracy and resources, and where the rule of law is fragile

2. Perceived legitimacy deficit of the resolution

Perceptions of 1540

Regional Organization Official, 2014 ...different one

Senior government level ...the official view is that this instrument is 'necessary'

However, mid-level bureaucrats feel that implementation is slow and **burdensome**

... and that they ultimately **lack the resources to prioritize implementation.**

They also feel that there **should be more support** from the international community.

... it is a **grievance** particularly heard from **smaller and developing countries** with **limited resources** - so basically **most countries in the Americas.**

UNSCR 1540 implementation in Latin America

Important role for regional organisations

To provide spaces for discussion and awareness raising

Focal point for the attempts to link the international non-proliferation agenda and regional mechanisms

Capacity building through training and sharing of best practice

Harmonisation of efforts as well as legal and political mechanisms

Linking regional priorities and co-operation where appropriate

General features

Role of knowledge and intangible aspects

Relevance raising as well as awareness raising



i.e. the need to avoid tick box exercises and to recognise softer approaches!!

Synergies and overlaps with existing issues and capacities with wider security issues

Impact assessment more difficult – building **sustainable** institutional capacities are a primary necessity but more difficult to measure and thus justify

Comments or questions welcome:

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