

## ***Venezuela***

### **Legislative measures taken by Venezuela with respect to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction National Constitution**

Article 324 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela provides that only the State may possess and use war weapons. Any such weapons that are manufactured in, or brought into, the country shall become the property of the Republic, without compensation or a trial. The Venezuelan armed forces shall be responsible for regulating and controlling the manufacture, import, export, storage, transit, registration, monitoring, inspection, possession and use of, and trade in, weapons, ammunition and explosives.

### **Organic Law on National Security**

Article 22 of the Organic Law on National Security provides that war material and other weapons, ammunition, explosives and the like shall be regulated and controlled by the Venezuelan army through the Venezuelan armed forces, in accordance with the relevant law and regulations.

### **Penal Code**

Article 275 of the Penal Code establishes that the import, manufacture, carrying, possession, supply or concealment of weapons classified as war weapons under the Weapons and Explosives Act and other legal provisions on the subject shall be punishable by two to five years in prison.

Likewise, Article 823 of the reformed Penal Code proposed by the Supreme Court of Justice provides that anyone using genetic engineering to produce chemical or biological weapons or weapons designed to exterminate the human race shall be punished by six to 12 years in prison and a fine of 600 to 1,200 tax units.

It should be stressed that, under the anti-terrorism bill, anyone illegally manufacturing, possessing, transporting or supplying weapons, ammunition, inflammable, biological or chemical substances or explosive devices with a view to carrying out acts of terrorism shall be punished by 10 to 15 years in prison.