

**Message from the Chair of the Committee Established pursuant to UN Security Council  
Resolution 1540 (2004) for the  
Training Course for the 1540 Points of Contact  
in the Asia and Pacific Region  
7 August 2017**

Course participants and colleagues,

First, on behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the government of China for hosting a second training course for the 1540 national Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific region. China's willingness to host this fourth training course is particularly appreciated as they took the initiative to host the first training course for 1540 Points of Contact in Qingdao, China in September 2015. In 2016 two other courses were held, one in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation for Participating States of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the other for States in the Latin America and Caribbean region in Santiago, Chile.

I would like to begin with a reminder of the proliferation risks we all face. The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 (2004) thirteen years ago indicates the political convergence on this matter and its seriousness that affects all States both directly and indirectly. The more recent follow-on resolution 2325 adopted on 15 December 2016 confirms that the political convergence remains as strong as ever. The potentially devastating effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, including terrorists, would have catastrophic humanitarian, economic, political and environmental consequences. You are already aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak in various parts of the world. While much of the activity surrounding United Nations resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concern procedures, compliance mechanisms and the like, we should not lose sight of what we are trying to prevent through the effective implementation of resolution 1540.

We are in an era in which terrorist groups and their supporters are ready to commit extreme violence on a wide scale. We should be conscious of the possibility of the use of a weapon of mass destruction with even more devastating effects. The use of chemical weapons in the Middle East shows that such use is not a theoretical possibility. Given the global nature of the challenge posed by the proliferation of the capabilities and technologies that can be used

by non-State actors for this purpose, no State is exempt from making every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

While you will hear a lot more about this later in the course, I feel it is important that I state the essence of the obligations so that you have in your minds, from the start the broad scope of the binding obligations. All States are required to:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them (OP2 of resolution 1540);
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities are embraced in implementing these obligations. Among them are export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. While it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems. Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks. That should be taken into account. Effective implementation requires our constant attention to ensure that there is no safe haven in any country for those who attempt to conduct illicit activities.

National 1540 Points of Contact should play an important role in this regard. They can be a useful link between States' executive powers and Committee 1540, including its Group of Experts. Resolution 1540 (2004) is a platform for cooperation to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. Without cooperation, it would be impossible to address the issue at a global level and can only be fully effective if States

collaborate with each other on a bilateral, sub-regional or even a regional basis. This is the key to successful implementation.

I am glad to tell you that the overwhelming majority of States have demonstrated their commitment to resolution 1540 through reporting to the 1540 Committee on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is worthy of note that to date 177 countries have reported on the measures they have taken for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that just over ninety per cent of UN Member States have reported. In the Asia and Pacific region, all but three States have submitted at least one report. This is a clear indication of commitment to the objectives of the resolution and enables the 1540 Committee to engage in dialogue with States in order to enhance implementation.

While reporting is important, what really matters is the effectiveness of the practical steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful tool, among others, is the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP). These plans can help in closing gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and controls. You will hear more about these plans during the course.

I am delighted to see that eighteen countries from the region have sent participants to this course. I must emphasise that you have a very important role to play in supporting your respective governments in fulfilling their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, you should play a part in ensuring that government departments and agencies that have responsibilities with regard to implementing the obligations under resolution 1540 are engaged, as well as the appropriate parts of civil society, industry and, in particular, parliamentarians given their legislative responsibilities.

As I mentioned earlier, the 1540 Committee is very keen to enhance the role of 1540 national Points of Contact. The Committee is seeking ways to build on their potential to play an important part in maintaining and improving 1540 implementation. I hope that we hear some ideas in this regard from participants in the course.

The aim of the course on which you are about to embark is to equip you to be an effective 1540 Point of Contact within your own country and to be a direct link to the 1540 Committee

and to other 1540 Points of Contact in your region and beyond. You will learn more detail about the obligations on States deriving from the Security Council resolutions concerned and you will obtain a better understanding of how your government can implement these obligations effectively. Conditions vary in all your countries – there is not a “one-size fits all” solution to effective implementation. However, there is no doubt that there is much to learn through the sharing of experience. This is very much what we hope will take place during this course that is intended to be interactive in nature.

I very much hope that you will take advantage of the expertise available to you from the international organisations taking part and from the participating members of the 1540 Group of Experts that supports the Committee.

While you will be learning a lot from those briefing you, I very much hope that we will get feedback from you on how you can fulfil your responsibilities in helping your governments meet their obligations under resolution 1540 – and what help you might need in this regard.

I must pay tribute to the international organisations and Member States that have sent representatives to help run this course. Your expertise is essential to the successful conduct of the course.

Thanks are also due to the Republic of Korea and the United States for their support for the course through their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament.

Finally, once again heartfelt thanks must go to China for hosting a training course for the second time and for their kind and generous hospitality offered to the course participants.

Thank you for your attention.