

**VIDEO MESSAGE BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SACHA SERGIO LLORENTTY SOLÍZ,  
CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) TO THE  
“UNIVERSALISATION WORKSHOP ON THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS  
CONVENTION (BWC) FOR AU MEMBER STATES”, TO BE HELD IN ADDIS ABABA,  
ETHIOPIA ON 11 AND 12 DECEMBER 2018**

Honourable Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I wish to express my gratitude to the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for the kind invitation to address this universalization workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for AU Member States. Regrettably, due to other commitments, I am unable to be with you in Addis Ababa today.

I nevertheless appreciate the opportunity to address you by video message on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its continued importance and relevance in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, as well as their means of delivery to non-State actors, including terrorists.

The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to non-State actors, particularly for terrorist purposes, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences. Regrettably, the recent use of chemical weapons by non-State actors in some parts of the world and the continued prevalence of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials outside of regulatory control, illustrate that this is not merely a theoretical possibility. Globalization, rapid advances in science and new emerging technologies have not only brought about increased opportunities for socio-economic development, but also increased complexities and risks, including with respect to non-State actor access to materials and technologies that can be used for both legitimate and proliferation purposes.

These threats transcend national boundaries and no State, irrespective of its location or level of development, can argue that it is somehow insulated and has no need to implement the measures required under resolution 1540 (2004). Beyond the security benefits of effective domestic, border and export controls over nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials, such measures can also contribute towards building confidence and trust between States to facilitate and further enhance legitimate trade.

States cannot achieve the objectives of resolution 1540 (2004) by acting alone. Close co-operation between States, and co-ordination with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations is required, as recognized in UN Security Council resolution 2325 (2016). Active engagement between the State and relevant national actors,

including industry, academia and professional associations can significantly contribute towards effective implementation.

Progress continues to be made towards the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including in Africa. However, much remains to be done and it is acknowledged that some States may require assistance. The 1540 Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts, remains ready, upon request, to facilitate assistance to States with their 1540 implementation efforts and so contribute to achieving our common objective of preventing the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by non-State actors.

While resolution 2325 (2016) notes that the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts, it calls upon States to intensify their efforts in this regard. Among the remaining 12 States that have yet to submit a report to the Security Council on the measures they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004), 10 are from Africa. I wish to encourage representatives of these States to urge their respective governments to submit their reports as soon as possible.

Given the focus of this workshop on the universalization of the BWC, it is important to note that resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation, among others, of biological weapons. Moreover, operative paragraph 8(c) of resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, including within the framework of the BWC, as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

I will conclude my remarks by underlining that given the unique circumstances prevailing in each State, there is no “one-size fits all” solution to effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). However, much can be achieved through the sharing of experiences and I wish to encourage you to use this workshop to exchange views and share experiences in the implementation of the obligations under the relevant international instruments, such as the BWC and resolution 1540 (2004). I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful workshop.

Thank you.