

**Statement on behalf of the Chair of the 1540 Committee during the
Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on
“Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist
Purposes”, and associated events of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
India, 28 - 29 October 2022**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540, I wish to thank the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) for the invitation to address this Special Meeting on “Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes”.

Since its adoption in 2004, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, by non-State actors, including for terrorist purposes.

It is important to note that the focus of resolution 1540 is on non-proliferation and not terrorism. And while the scope of resolution 1540 differs from the international instruments dealing with terrorism, there is some important overlap with those instruments that contain specific provisions related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

For the purposes of the resolution, a non-State actor is defined as “an individual or entity, not acting under the lawful authority of any State”. The resolution does not identify specific individuals or entities, does not impose sanctions, nor are its provisions directed against any State.

Resolution 1540 imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prohibit non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, finance or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Furthermore, to prevent such proliferation, it obliges States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls. These include measures to account for and secure “related materials”; physical protection measures; effective border controls and law enforcement measures; and export and trans-shipment controls, including controls over funding and services.

In its efforts to enhance international peace and security, the 1540 Committee cooperates with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as with the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267, 1989 and 2253 concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da’esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals and entities. This cooperation includes, as appropriate, information sharing, coordination on visits to States, within their respective mandates, technical assistance, and other issues of relevance to all three committees.

Given the focus of this Special Meeting, allow me to remind participants of resolution 2325 (2016) which calls upon States to take into account developments on the evolving nature of risk of proliferation and rapid advances in science and technology in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This resolution also requests 1540 Committee to take note in its work, where relevant, of the continually evolving nature of the risks of proliferation, including the use by non-State actors of rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce for proliferation purposes, in the context of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The 1540 Committee is currently conducting a Comprehensive Review on the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 which included Open Consultations with UN Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society, in New York from 31 May to 2 June of this year.

Excellencies,

The full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 remains crucial to address the continued threat posed by non-State actors accessing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by using the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce. This threat is not confined to national borders or to some parts of the world and we all have a role to play to address this common threat to our security, including by establishing domestic controls over related materials.

While important progress has been made since 2004 in the implementation of resolution 1540, much remains to be done. There is a need to enhance coordination of efforts at national, regional, subregional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to the serious challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in non-State actors' hands.

Thank you.