

**Cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution
1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Opening remarks by Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente
Chair of the 1540 Committee**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, and in my capacity as the Chair, I wish to express appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States for the invitation to address this regional cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Resolution 1540 remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and represents a key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, by non-State actors.

While States have continued to implement the provisions of the resolution, its full and effective implementation is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

In the light of the currently ongoing comprehensive review of the resolution 1540, it has to be noted that progress has been made towards the implementation of resolution 1540 since 2016, including in the Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the information provided by States to the Committee on the measures taken by them to implement the resolution.

Organizations like the Organization of American States contribute to assisting States at the regional level in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 and provide a platform for States to share experiences and lessons learned. CICTE designated a 1540 Coordinator in 2017.

Furthermore, resolution 2325 highlights the important role of regional organizations and encourages them to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540. This is of special importance with regard to ongoing assistance programmes as it helps to coordinate efforts in order to avoid unnecessary duplications.

Since 2017 five voluntary National Implementation Action Plans have been submitted to the Committee by regional Member States and three peer reviews

involving three pairs of States of the region have been organized. All these actions contributed to increase the level of implementation of resolution 1540 in the region.

Over the last years, the Committee continued cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. The Committee will continue to identify ways to improve said cooperation and enhance it, for the benefit of Member States implementation of the resolution.

Based on the above, I hope discussions in the framework of this cooperation meeting will identify additional ways that the Committee and the Organization of American States might further efforts to work more closely in future, particularly in light of the ongoing Comprehensive Review.

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I wish all participants fruitful deliberations and a successful meeting.

I thank you.