

**Training Course for 1540 National Points of Contact of the OSCE-Member States
Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation
4 September 2018**

Opening Address by Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz

**Chair of the Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540
(2004)**

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the government of the Russian Federation for hosting this second training course for Resolution 1540 (2004) National Points of Contact from participating states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Russia's willingness to host this course is particularly appreciated considering that you organized the previous one in Kaliningrad in 2016, also for OSCE countries.

Globalization, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks, including in respect of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which need to be countered by the modification of existing measures or by the introduction of new ones.

The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1540 fourteen years ago demonstrates the agreement of the international community of the seriousness of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a threat which potentially affects all States. The most recent Security Council Resolution, 2325, adopted unanimously on December 15th, 2016, confirms that the agreement remains as strong as ever. It is important to bear in mind the potentially devastating effects that nuclear, chemical or biological weapons could exert in the hands of non-State actors, including terrorists. We are in an era in which terrorist groups and their supporters are ready to commit extreme violence on a wide scale, which could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. We know the deadly havoc that terrorists have wreaked in various parts of the world. In this context, we should be conscious of the possibility of the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The use of chemical weapons by non-State actors in the Middle East shows that this not just 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 should believe itself exempt from the need to make every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under Resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

Before the different speakers make their presentations, I would like to highlight the essence of obligations under Resolution 1540. These are that 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 effective laws that prohibits non-State actors from manufacture, acquire, posses, 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 participating as an accomplish, assist or finance them;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities need to be taken into account when implementing these obligations. They include export controls, and controls on trans-shipments, controls on intangible technology transfers, on proliferation financing, and the need for physical protection and border controls. While it is a binding obligation for States to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to each State in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems.

Effective implementation requires our constant attention. National Points of Contact should play an important role in what the 1540 Committee hopes will be a “living network”. This means not only a means of connecting National Point of Contacts with the 1540 Committee and its supporting Group of Experts, but also with each other. Resolution 1540 is at heart a collaborative resolution and can only be effective if States collaborate with each other on a bilateral, sub-regional or regional basis.

I am glad to tell you that an 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, in order to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is worth highlighting that only 12 countries have not yet reported on the measures they have taken for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that over ninety per cent of UN Member States have sent reports to the Committee. 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 its implementation.

While reporting is essential, what really matters is the effectiveness of steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful step is to develop a voluntary National Implementation Action Plans. This helps to identify any gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and controls, and to close them. 1540 National Points of Contact have an important role to play in NIAPs, not only by ensuring that all national governmental departments and agencies with responsibilities for implementing the obligations of resolution 1540 are engaged, but also that civil society, industry and parliamentarians as also involved.

The aim of this course is to equip you to be an effective 1540 Point of Contact within your own country, to be a direct link to the 1540 Committee, and a link to other 1540 Points of Contact in

your region and beyond. You will learn more in detail about the obligations on States deriving from the resolution and you will obtain a better understanding of how your government can effectively implement these obligations. 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 experiences, and we have made the training as interactive as possible in order to encourage such sharing.

I also encourage you take advantage of the expertise of the speakers from international organizations, as well as the members of the 1540 Group of Experts.

I very much hope that during the course, you will provide feedback on how you think you can fulfil your responsibilities more effectively in helping your governments meet their obligations under the Resolution 1540 – and what kind of assistance you might need in this regard.

I must pay tribute to the international organizations and member states that have sent representatives to help us running this course. Your expertise is essential to obtain successful outcomes.

Thanks, are also going to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for their support of this course.

Thank you for your attention.

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