

**Address to the  
Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism  
by the Chair of the 1540 Committee  
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Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

I am grateful to have the honour, in my capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to the United Nations Security Council's resolution 1540 (2004), to address this distinguished gathering of parliamentarians. For this opportunity my thanks go to the Chairperson of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Members Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Committee has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Security Council's resolution 1540 that was adopted unanimously on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004. As a resolution under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter that deals with action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression, it places legally binding obligations on all UN Member States. The purpose of the resolution is to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, along with their delivery systems and related materials for their development and manufacture, from getting into the hands of non-State actors, including terrorists. Properly implemented world-wide, resolution 1540 (2004) is a major contribution towards preventing a humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe should any of these weapons be used to cause large-scale casualties and suffering.

During the nearly thirteen years since its adoption, resolution 1540 (2004) has become one of the key components of the international regime to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. It does not stand alone in this regard. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, and other legally binding counter-terrorism instruments all work towards this end.

Unfortunately, during the same time there have been incidences of the alarming use of chemical weapons by non-State actors especially in the Middle East. It is even clearer now that the possible use of weapons of mass destruction is not simply theoretical.

The United Nations Security Council remains seized of the importance of the prevention of such a catastrophic event. This is demonstrated by its adoption of resolution 2325 on 15 December 2016 that reinforces the necessity for States to implement effectively their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). In this more recent resolution the Security Council recognises that, I quote, "...parliamentarians have a key role in enacting the necessary legislation to implement the obligations of the resolution", unquote.

The range of legislation required is broad. It includes prohibitions on non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. These seven prohibitions must also cover anyone acting as an accomplice to assist in any way, including by financing such activities. Further, to complement these measures, domestic controls are required on related materials including measures in the areas of accounting, securing, physical protection, border and law enforcement, and export controls.

I am glad to say that all countries represented here already have substantial legislation and controls in place for these obligations. However, from the analysis conducted last year by the Committee, in the course of a comprehensive review of the implementation resolution 1540 (2004), legislative gaps remain in many countries.

As the Security Council observes in its preamble to resolution 2325 (2016) “...full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States, including the adoption of national laws and measures to ensure implementation of these laws, is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels,”. The Security Council and the Committee recognises that States have to implement the obligations in the context of their individual circumstances and legal procedures therefore, while the resolutions make clear the obligations, they do not specify exactly how States should implement them. Nevertheless the Committee and its supporting Group of Experts are ready to assist and advise as requested.

The Committee recognises the efforts already made by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and applauds them. We hope that such efforts will continue and stand ready to help as appropriate.

The Committee welcomes opportunities to interact with parliamentarians, such as with the assemblies represented here today, and would welcome ideas for further such interactions either nationally or collectively. The Committee has benefited from such interactions in previous years in other parts of the world, for example in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Experience of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) shows that, while the responsibility for implementation lies with individual States, such efforts

can benefit from collaboration between States in, for example, sharing effective practices, whether bilaterally or collectively on a regional basis.

Parliamentary representatives have an indispensable role to play in enacting the necessary legislation and in the oversight of its implementation. It is a vital role on the part of all States to help ensure that there is no safe haven for those non-State actors intent on causing grievous harm.

The Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts is ready to cooperate with and, as requested, to facilitate assistance to States with their 1540 implementation efforts that will contribute to achieving our common objective to prevent the catastrophic use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

While my remarks have been necessarily brief, more details regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will be given later in the agenda by a member of our supporting Group of Experts, Mr. Gennady Lutay. However, I would like to take advantage of my presence here to discuss any aspects of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Thank you for your attention.

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