

**Regional Workshop on
the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
2 to 3 June 2015 Amman, Jordan
Message from Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi
Chair of the Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

At the outset, on behalf of the 1540 Committee I would like to express our gratitude to the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for taking the initiative in hosting this regional meeting for members of the League of Arab States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I am confident that this meeting will prove to be an important contribution to the effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. In its 2015 Programme of Work the 1540 Committee assigns particular importance to efforts at the regional level. In this regard the support of regional organisations is fundamental to the effective implementation of the resolution worldwide. On this occasion I am glad that the Committee has the opportunity to engage with the League of Arab States on this important issue that lies at the heart of global security.

A reminder of the proliferation risks we face is not out of place. Resolution 1540 is a preventive resolution. The potentially devastating effects of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, and possibly into the hands of terrorists, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. You are already only too well aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak both in this region but also around the world. I know that many of you are at the front line of terrorist acts in your region.

Much of the activity surrounding UN resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concerns creating the legal and technical infrastructure needed to control WMD and related materials as well as penalizing non-compliance. However, we should not lose sight of what we are trying to prevent. We have entered an era in which terrorist groups and their supporters are ready to commit extreme violence on a wide scale. In this context, we should be conscious of the possibility of the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. 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, all States must make every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

Even with this well-informed audience I feel it is appropriate that I state the essence of the obligations so that you have in your minds during your deliberations the broad scope of the binding obligations. 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 appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities is embraced in implementing these obligations. Among them are export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. Of course, while it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems - and particular regional circumstances. I would also note that in order to enhance the effectiveness of resolution 1540's requirements, there need to be in place penalties for violations that reflect the grave nature of the crimes involved. Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment, bring great benefits -- but also new risks. These need to be countered by adaptation of measures already in place or by the introduction of new measures. Effective implementation requires our constant attention.

I know that this workshop will focus on the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans, sharing of effective practices and assistance, where needed, in capacity-building for implementation. I know that you are going to discuss these matters in detail and I will not dwell on them here.

I welcome the participation in this workshop of representatives of international organisations and States that have offered to provide assistance. I very much hope that participants will take advantage of your presence in order to engender direct responses to requests for help. The 1540 Committee is anxious to improve the efficiency of the 1540 assistance mechanism and would welcome ideas from all sides on how best to improve it.

I would like to draw your attention to the Comprehensive Review of implementation that the 1540 Committee is required by the UN Security Council to undertake. All aspects of operation of resolution 1540 will be reviewed over the course of the coming year – implementation, assistance, relations with international organisations, transparency and outreach to civil society such as academia and industry. The implementation of resolution 1540 is essentially a collaborative effort and the Comprehensive Review will be conducted in that spirit. The Committee is keen to hear views from States and international organisations on how the implementation of the resolution can be improved. I encourage you to look at the agreed modalities and themes of the Review that will be explained in the course of the workshop and are on the Committee's website. The Committee's report on the Review has to be submitted to the Security Council before December 2016. This meeting is one opportunity for views to be expressed, but the Committee would also welcome direct submissions – perhaps in your national reports. There will be other opportunities in outreach activities likely to take place over the next twelve months.

Finally I would like to express the Committee's thanks those whose financial contributions made this event possible namely: the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union. We would also like to recognise the necessary support provided by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

I wish you all success in your endeavours and look forward to hearing of the results of your deliberations.

END