

**Opening Statement by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
at the Peer Review exercise for Brazil, Chile and Mexico in the framework of
UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 28 – 29 September 2023

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and in my capacity as the Chair, I wish to thank the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States for the invitation to address this peer review exercise for Brazil, Chile and Mexico in the framework of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540.

Since its adoption in 2004, resolution 1540 has become 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.

Resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all States. First, to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery; second, to adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities; and third, to establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

The most recent Security Council resolution 2663, unanimously adopted on 30 November 2022, which also extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for another period of 10 years, reiterates the requirements of resolution 1540, and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution.

Before the adoption of this new resolution a comprehensive review of the implementation status of resolution 1540 was conducted. The report on the review submitted to the Security Council confirms that further progress has been made towards implementation, including in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Despite progress made, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

To date, eight voluntary National Implementation Action Plans have been submitted to the Committee by Member States from the Latin American and Caribbean region 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.

I thank the Organization of American States for its contribution to States at the regional level in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and for providing, through initiatives such as this one, a platform for States to share experiences and lessons learned.

The Committee recognizes the work that Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States has been carrying out in the region and looks forward to continuing to collaborate, in order to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

While implementation is a national responsibility, States cannot achieve the objectives of the resolution by acting alone. The threat of the non-state actor proliferation and illicit trafficking transcends national boundaries and can only be effectively prevented through sub-regional, regional and international cooperation. In this regard peer reviews have been useful in addressing areas of opportunity in terms of implementation, as well as in sharing knowledge and experience between participating Member States and the 1540 Committee continues to encourage States to conduct such exercises. I therefore wish to commend the Governments of Brazil, Chile and Mexico for the actions they have already taken to strengthen the implementation of the resolution 1540 and for their readiness to participate in this exercise.

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

Thank you.