

**Opening Statement by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose,  
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)  
at the Peer review on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

OAS/CICTE for peer review exercise Ecuador/Paraguay

Quito, Ecuador, 13-14 November 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 of the Committee, I would like to express my willingness to both the Organization of American States/Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/CICTE) and the governments of Ecuador and Paraguay for inviting the 1540 Committee to participate in this Peer review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Such events constitute for Member States an opportunity for sharing experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004). This is the third 1540 visit undertaken by the Committee with Ecuador and the fourth with Paraguay since the adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004 through its participation in national or regional events, in-presence or virtually, relevant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004 was an important and timely measure in international efforts aimed at preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-state actors. The resolution is the first international instrument that deals with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials in an integrated and comprehensive manner. Since its adoption 19 years ago, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture.

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.

It should be noted that resolution 1540 does not conflict with or alter rights and obligations of State Parties to the existing international disarmament and nonproliferation instruments. It establishes additional obligations in order to address existing lacunae in current international instruments. Every State should also be assured that full implementation of the resolution by States does not hamper international cooperation in trading with materials, equipment and technology destined for peaceful purposes.

What I would like to stress is that measures to counter proliferation remain primarily within the responsibility of States and ultimately the implementation of resolution 1540 is a national function and responsibility. It is also important to raise the fact that the regime set up by resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only States that possess the relevant WMD-related technology. The obligations concern all States. The threat posed by non-state actors, including those with terrorist purposes, acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction, does not recognize borders. Every single country and nation have to get involved in this global effort. That is what makes each and every country's national performance so crucial for achieving the goals set out by resolution 1540. Your commitments and their transposition into national legislation, norms and practice, in particular, is what could make a genuine difference in this regard. I would like to highlight that the 1540 Committee, jointly with other national and international partners, will continue to facilitate national implementation of resolution 1540.

I thank again the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States for its contribution to States at the regional level in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

It is my hope that this peer review will facilitate towards deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540.

I wish you a fruitful event.

Thank you.