

**Opening Statement by Ambassador Andrés Montalvo,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
at the second round of the Peer review on the Implementation of UN Security Council
resolution 1540 (2004)**

OAS/CICTE for peer review exercise Ecuador/Paraguay

Asunción, Paraguay, 12-13 December 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 new Chair of the Committee, I would like to express my appreciation 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 second round of the Peer review exercise, after a first meeting last November, carried out in the framework of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). This continuous engagement shows that such events constitute for Member States an opportunity for sharing experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004).

As you know, 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. Before the adoption of resolution 2663 last November 2022, 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. Your engagement in this Peer review is a contribution to this effort.

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.

It is my hope that this meeting will further facilitate a deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540.

I wish you a fruitful event.

Thank you for your attention.