

**Opening Statement at the Workshop on Strengthening the  
Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in  
the IGAD Region**

**by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose, Chair of the Committee  
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

Nairobi, Kenya, 14 March 2023

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by expressing, on behalf of Members of the 1540 Committee, our gratitude to the Kenyan host, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their efforts to support this workshop, whose main goal is promoting resolution 1540 implementation by regional States and for inviting the Committee to be present at this important event.

For the 1540 Committee the workshop is indeed an exceptional opportunity to interact with representatives of Member States from a region committed to promoting the international non-proliferation regimes and the implementation of resolution 1540. Since the adoption of resolution 2663 on 30 November 2022, this is our first occasion, and first time for me, since I assumed the duty of 1540 Committee Chair in January 2023, to reach out to representatives from a subregion to inform them of achievements and challenges ahead, and, more importantly, to discuss and seek their invaluable support in the implementation of resolution 1540. We are particularly happy that this opportunity is taken in conjunction with representation from important international and regional organizations that can contribute their share in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540.

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. As you are aware, Resolution 1540 aims to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction -

WMD, including by preventing non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. 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.

On the other hand, it should be noted that resolution 1540 does not conflict with or alter rights and obligations of State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), or the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). 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 WMD, their means of delivery and related material. The obligations concern all States. The threat posed by non-state actors, including those with terrorist purposes, acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction and related material, does not recognize borders. Every single country and nation has 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.

As you may be aware, the Committee has conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation status of resolution 1540 in 2022. According to the review, progress has been made towards the implementation of resolution 1540 since the last review in 2016, including in Africa. However, full implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task.

To assist Member States in the implementation of the resolution, the Committee has developed a number of tools. This includes matrices, which have recently been updated. The Committee encourages Member States to submit national reports or to provide additional up-to-date information, as appropriate. To date, 185 of the 193 UN Member States have submitted reports. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the non-reporting States in Africa to submit their first reports without delay. The Committee stands ready to provide any support that may be required in this regard. The Committee also continues to encourage States to prepare and submit a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan. This is a useful tool to identify actions that may be required to address implementation gaps, foster cooperation and to identify assistance needs. The 1540 Committee stands ready, upon States' request, to assist in this regard.

Resolution 1540 also recognizes that some states may require assistance in implementing provisions of the resolution. In order to strengthen Member States' capacity to implement their 1540 obligations, the Committee has streamlined its assistance matchmaking process and sought updated information from States and international and regional organisations offering assistance, as well as from those States seeking assistance. The Committee encourages states to use the template available on its website when providing specific details of their assistance needs. The Committee stands ready, together with its national and international partners, to provide assistance member states might need in implementing the resolution.

It is my hope that this Workshop will contribute towards deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540 and ways and means to strengthen national implementation in IGAD.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this important training course.

Thank you for your attention.

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**Closing Remarks at the Workshop on Strengthening the  
Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in  
the IGAD Region**

**by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose, Chair of the Committee  
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

Nairobi, Kenya, 15 March 2023

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this closing session and it has been a most illuminating two days. I am impressed by all of you for your dedication and active engagement in the workshop and would like to congratulate all of you for what you have achieved during the past two days.

As I have stressed in my opening remarks, resolution 1540 is intended to ensure that no non-State actors, including those with terrorist intentions, can exploit nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, means of delivery and related materials. The resolution concerns all States and not only those that possess materials and technologies relevant to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Every single country and nation has to implement fully the resolution and cooperate among themselves to that end. In the past two days, I have listened carefully to your presentations and discussions, and tried to talk the representatives on the margins of the workshop where possible. I have learned more about the challenges you are facing when implementing the resolution and the assistance you might need in the process. What is more important is that I have seen commitment, dedication and endeavor in fulfilling your international obligations. I would like to reiterate that the 1540 Committee, jointly with other national and international partners, will continue to facilitate national implementation of resolution 1540. And I look forward to continue working closely with you in this regard.

Thank you.