

**Statement by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose,  
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)  
to the Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

The Hague, the Netherlands, 15 - 19 May 2023

Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I wish to express my gratitude to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the opportunity to address this Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

At the outset allow me to warmly welcome the close collaboration between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW, which continues, within its mandate, to provide technical support to States in the implementation of relevant provisions under UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Such cooperation extends to the sharing of information and effective practices in support of our common goal of mitigating threats to international peace and security posed by chemical weapons, including measures to prevent non-State actor proliferation.

Since its adoption 19 years ago, resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture. The unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) was an important and timely measure in international efforts that aims to prevent non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. In that regard,

resolution 1540 (2004) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) complement and reinforce each other. Through resolution 1540, States are called upon to renew and fulfill their commitment to multilateral cooperation, also within the CWC framework, as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Additionally, resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation of proliferation-related multilateral treaties to which they are parties, including the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It is important to recall that resolution 1540 (2004) affirms that none of the obligations under this resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, neither do they alter the responsibilities of the OPCW. This was reaffirmed in the most recent resolution 2663 unanimous adopted on 30 November 2022, which extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years

Before the adoption of the resolution 2663 (2022), a comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was conducted. According to the review, progress has been made towards the implementation of the resolution 1540. Globally, implementation increased by about 6% since 2016, but with differing degrees among the key obligations, weapons categories and regions. In respect of measures related to chemical weapons, an increase of around 5% was recorded since 2016.

Despite progress made, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remains a long-term task. 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 international cooperation.

I will conclude my remarks by underlining that the rapidly changing global environment requires the use of all available opportunities for international cooperation and sharing of experiences.

I wish all participants fruitful deliberations and a successful Review Conference.

Thank you.

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