

**Statement by Ambassador Hernan Perez Loose, Chair of the Committee
establish pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

**Cameroon National Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540
(2004)**

Opening session

Yaoundé, Cameroon, 12 – 14 September 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 Government of Cameroon for its efforts to organize this workshop. I would also like to thank the Cameroon authorities for their invitation to the 1540 Committee to participate and co-host this important event on the implementation of resolution 1540.

This is the second visit to Cameroon by the 1540 Committee after a Stakeholders' Workshop for Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) States Parties in Africa, organized by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Republic of Cameroon on 12 to 14 September 2017.

As you are aware, resolution 1540 (2004) 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.

Since its adoption, 19 years ago, resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture.

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 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. This was reaffirmed in the most recent resolution 2663 adopted on 30 November 2022.

During the course of this national workshop, the participants will discuss the obligations under the resolution, as well as the various tools and ways how to address them during national implementation, including through the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism. I am sure that all the programmed activities will be of great relevance to feed the discussions during these days of work.

The presence of so many national stakeholders, all of whom have a role to play in the implementation of resolution 1540, is encouraging. We look forward to your active participation in discussions over the next three days.

Allow me to also acknowledge and warmly welcome the participation by our partners from international and regional organizations who will contribute to the Workshop and are able to offer various forms of assistance and support in the implementation of resolution 1540.

To conclude, let me congratulate Cameroon on its commitment and the steps it has already taken and plan to take towards the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the resolution to prevent non-state actor proliferation and contributing to international peace and security.

Thank you.