

**Opening Statement at the UNSCR 1540 Export Control Assistance Kick-off Conference for
Latin American States**

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

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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 Germany and the Government of Chile for their efforts to organise this conference, whose main goal is promoting resolution 1540 implementation by Latin American States, and for inviting the Committee to be present at this event.

For the 1540 Committee, having a facilitating role in implementation of the abovementioned resolution in the global context, the conference is indeed an opportunity to interact with representatives of Member States from the region committed to promoting the international non-proliferation regime and 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 nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials to non-state actors.

The United Nations Security Council decides in operative paragraph 3(d) of resolution 1540 (2004) that all States shall establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items. It also recognizes in operative paragraph 6 the utility in implementing this resolution of effective national control lists and calls upon all Member States, when necessary, to pursue at the earliest opportunity the development of such lists.

Furthermore, the most recent resolution 2663 of 2022, which reiterates the Council's decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution, emphasizes the need for States to take all appropriate national measures in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law to strengthen export controls.

What I would also like to stress is that measures to prevent proliferation, including export controls provisions, 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 Weapons of Mass Destruction-related technology. The obligations concern all States.

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.

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.

While implementation of this unifying resolution remains primarily within the responsibility of States, cooperation between States, voluntary sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and effective practices in this regard may further help in the process of implementation of the resolution and towards our common goal of preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1540 (2004), the UN Security Council recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the resolution and invites States to offer such assistance in response to requests. The 1540 Committee itself stands ready, upon States' request, to provide technical expertise in drafting their reports to the Committee, preparing assistance requests, elaborating voluntary national implementation action plans, and conducting national events. The Committee also facilitates assistance by matching assistance requests with offers from States or international, regional or subregional organisations.

Furthermore, in the most recent resolution 2663 the Security Council continues to encourage States to contribute funds, on a voluntary basis, to finance projects and activities, including through the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, to assist States in implementing their obligations under resolution 1540.

During the course of this conference, the participants will discuss the obligations under the resolution, the status of implementation, as well as the various tools available to support national implementation, including 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.

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

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this conference.

Thank you.