

**Opening Statement at the UNSCR 1540 Regional Industry Outreach Conference  
(Wiesbaden Process) for Latin American States  
by Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose,  
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

**Santiago de Chile, Chile, 5-6 October 2023**

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and would like to thank the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), its Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and the Federal Government of Germany for organizing this event.

The UN Security Council in the operative paragraph 8(d) of resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their legal obligations to implement the resolution. This Industry Outreach Conference, which brings together representatives of governments from Latin American States, the 1540 Committee and representatives from diverse sectors of industry for direct engagement, provides a platform for such a dialogue.

The Committee has long recognized the importance of the engagement of industry by governments in the effort to advance the implementation of the legal obligations under the resolution. For instance, among other obligations, States shall adopt legislation to prohibit any non-state actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, as stated in the operative paragraph 2. States shall also establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of those weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, according to the operative paragraph 3.

It is in the field of controls where we find more specific references to the activities of industry, as the resolution requires that States establish measures regarding, among other aspects, production, use, storage, transport, border, export or trans-shipment controls, or financing of those items. This range of obligations might appear a tall order for compliance by governments but in the context of what we are trying to prevent they are necessary.

Furthermore, the control of related materials is vital to reduce the risks of a catastrophic event resulting from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors and their possible use for terrorist purposes. As we can see, compliance with export control regulations, as well as implementation of effective security arrangements for nuclear, chemical and biological facilities and related materials, are areas where industry's role is critical.

While, of course, governments have the fundamental responsibility to implement the obligations under resolution 1540 by establishing national laws and measures, industry is a key factor in implementing the measures.

While States have made progress towards the implementation of the resolution, much remains to be done and the latest data and rate of progress reaffirm the Committee's view that the full and effective implementation of the resolution is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

The most recent resolution 2663 (2022) reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), and address all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls. It also requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia, and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Finally, it is important to underline that to be able to achieve the long-term task of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) it is critical to involve all important stakeholders. And while implementation and also outreach to important stakeholders remain primarily within the responsibility of States, voluntary sharing of experiences, lessons learned 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.

I wish all participants fruitful discussions and a successful conference. Thank you.