

Opening remarks by Ambassador Jose Javier De La Gasca
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
at the OAS cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution
1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and in my capacity as Chair of the Committee, I would like to express my appreciation to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICTE) for inviting the 1540 Committee to participate in this cooperation meeting on implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In April of this year, we mark the 20th anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004). Since its adoption, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and represents a key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, by non-State actors.

Based on the outcomes of the last comprehensive review of resolution 1540 (2004), which was concluded in 2022, I would like to note that further progress has been made towards the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In accordance with the results of the comprehensive review of the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in Latin America and the Caribbean, 47% of possible measures to implement the resolution were recorded in total. It is an increase of around 4% compared to 2016.

While States have made progress in complying with the provisions of the resolution, its full and effective implementation is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

Organizations like the Organization of American States contribute to assisting States at the regional level in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and provide a platform for States to share experiences and lessons learned.

Furthermore, the most recent resolution 2663 (2022) welcomes efforts by international, regional and subregional organizations in supporting Member States in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and also encourages them to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee and Member States on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Against this background this cooperation meeting is of special importance as it seeks to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination among key organizations assisting Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

Finally, I thank the Organization of American States for its contribution to States in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the regional level.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

**Closing remarks by Ambassador Jose Javier De La Gasca,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
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Washington, D.C., 21 February 2024

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this closing session after two days of intensive exchange of information.

As you know, resolution 1540 (2004) 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 States seeking assistance. The Committee encourages Members States that have requests for assistance to make use of the Committee's assistance template to convey them to the 1540 Committee.

Against this background such cooperation meetings are of special importance in order to better coordinate implementation efforts in the region, identify priorities, gaps and areas for possible cooperation.

I am impressed by all of you for your dedication and active engagement in supporting States in Latin America and the Caribbean in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

And I look forward to continue working closely with you in this regard.

Thank you.