



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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## IPU Statement

IPU Permanent Observer  
to the United Nations

1540 Committee  
Open Consultations  
2 June 2022

Honourable Chair,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world parliamentary community, through various resolutions adopted during the 111th<sup>1</sup>, 115th<sup>2</sup>, and 130th<sup>3</sup> IPU Assemblies, spoke to the importance of UNSCR 1540 as a global tool to prevent and reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Through its mandate granted by the very same community, the IPU carried out two regional parliamentary seminars, in 2016 for the African region, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and in 2019, for Pacific Island parliaments in Wellington, New Zealand. The outcomes of both seminars showed that parliamentarians strongly agree on the need for further dialogue and regional parliamentary engagement on issues related to UNSCR 1540. They also highlighted shortcomings in parliamentary awareness and the need to continue promoting implementation of the resolution through regional and national assistance.

As acknowledged in UNSC Resolution 2325 (2016), parliamentarians have a key role in enacting the necessary legislation to implement the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004). Through their legislative prerogatives and mandate as citizens' representatives, parliamentarians are ideally placed to meaningfully and sustainably support the non-proliferation provisions of UNSCR 1540.

In addition, through its advocacy and capacity-building work, its publications, and the promotion of exchange of experience, the IPU seeks to highlight and foster concrete practices to assist parliaments in the enforcement of global non-proliferation mechanisms. The IPU's experience reveals that:

- By developing and promoting legislative frameworks, parliamentarians can ensure the adoption and enforcement of the resolution through the creation of strict and strong verification regimes.
- By championing full implementation of the 1540 resolution, parliamentarians can raise awareness about the ramification and benefits of verification mechanisms both within parliament and in their constituencies.
- By monitoring the policies and actions of their governments, parliamentarians can ensure a certain level of oversight and accountability in the implementation processes carried out by national security bodies and institutions.
- By allocating adequate funds to non-proliferation policies and control measures, parliamentarians can ensure the longevity of the pledge made in the name of the people they represent.

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<sup>1</sup> [The role of parliaments in strengthening multilateral regimes for non-proliferation of weapons and for disarmament, in the light of new security challenges](#), (2004)

<sup>2</sup> [Cooperation between parliaments and the United Nations in promoting world peace, particularly from the perspectives of the fight against terrorism and the achievement of greater energy security](#), (2006)

<sup>3</sup> [Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments](#), (2014)

As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, and given the current tensions experienced globally, the need for furthering the implementation of non-proliferation tools like the UNSCR 1540 are more felt than ever. No nation is immune from the menace of WMDs proliferation, as such, a universal commitment backed with strong national legislations and verification systems, is required to sustainably rid our societies from that threat.

By fostering national and regional parliamentary capacities, parliaments can contribute to the elaboration of a sustainable framework for WMDs non-proliferation that not only aspires to be applied universally, but also seeks to sustainably protect this generation and the ones to come.

The IPU remains fully committed to peace, security, and the issue of non-proliferation of WMDs. It expresses its willingness to continue organizing regional webinars and other events to further assist parliaments take meaningful steps towards full implementation of UNSCR resolution 1540.

IPU thanks you for your attention and wishes you success in your work.