

Statement by Alison August Treppel  
Executive Secretary, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the  
Organization of American States  
Open Consultations of the 1540 Committee  
*31 May to 2 June 2022, New York*

Distinguished delegates, members of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, UNODA colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Organization of American States, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide inputs to the Comprehensive Review process. I'd like to begin by congratulating the Government of Mexico for their active chairmanship of the Committee and for promoting an open and inclusive discussion around the importance of countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. We would also like to recognize the good and important work of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and its regional offices in this regard.

Chair,

The OAS, through its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), has been supporting UNSCR 1540 implementation throughout the Western Hemisphere since 2005, including through legislative assistance, the drafting of national action plans, targeted capacity building, public and private sector outreach, and peer review exercises. During this time, we have developed and strengthened strategic alliances with the UNODA, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and with other international organizations and civil society organizations. In 2017, CICTE further strengthened its commitment to the implementation of resolution 1540 through the appointment of a full time 1540 regional coordinator.

Among other benefits, this regional coordinator has helped to ensure that our Member States view UNSCR 1540 implementation as a sustained, long-term effort. Namely, by encouraging them to develop and/or modernize effective legal frameworks; to put in place comprehensive policies of the State; and to identify the human and financial resources needed to support robust non-proliferation regimes. But equally as important, our regional coordinator, Ms. Soledad Urruela, helps to facilitate information sharing among diverse public and private sector stakeholders in order to strengthen non-proliferation cooperation and technical assistance in the region.

Since the position of regional coordinator was created in 2017, the 1540 program has had a considerable impact in the region and in this regard, we would like to highlight some of those activities as well as some of the achievements made by beneficiary states of OAS assistance, among them:

- the drafting of five national implementation action plans submitted to the 1540 Committee.

- a regional cooperation conference for donors and implementers held in May 2019, and which will be repeated on 8 and 9 June of this year. These conferences are important to establish and maintain partnerships, promote collaborations and avoid duplicating efforts.
- 3 peer review exercises (Colombia-Chile in 2017, Paraguay-Uruguay in 2019 and Dominican Republic and Panama, also in 2019).
- 11 high-level events, covering topics from biosafety and biosecurity, illicit trafficking of dual-use materials, financing of WMD and its proliferation. We have also organized two side events within the framework of the first commission of the UN General Assembly.
- With regard to legislative assistance, the 1540 program through its different projects, has assisted in the drafting of four laws, three executive decrees, one regulation and two reforms to criminal and constitutional code laws, in addition to several drafts currently in various stages of development and approval.
- in addition, we have officially submitted 8 legal reports to Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Chair,

This Comprehensive Review provides an opportunity to take stock of 1540 implementation, to strengthen existing mandates if necessary, and to bolster the cooperation toolkit available to the Committee. As such, and based on our experience in the Western Hemisphere over the past 18 years, OAS/CICTE would like to offer recommendations for your consideration:

First, there is no doubt that Resolution 1540 is a key component of the international security architecture and global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to non-state actors, including terrorists. Its focus on cooperation and outreach, rather than sanctions, sets it apart from other Security Council resolutions. In this regard, we believe that Member States and partner organizations, including civil society, could benefit from more open meetings, debates and consultations.

Secondly, the Group of Experts serves as an excellent resource to the Committee and Member States; however, we believe they could play a larger role –in line with their mandates, of course – to support States’ efforts to implement 1540 in ways that are aligned with their diverse needs and priorities.

Third, we support the call made by several states to support a women, peace and security agenda and ensure a gender-balanced approach in all aspects of 1540 implementation.

Finally, we note that follow-up resolutions to 1540 have addressed the important role of regional and subregional organizations. The 2016 Comprehensive Review went even further, by encouraging increased cooperation and information sharing with regional organizations due to, among other things, their specific knowledge of their member states’ needs and priorities, and their extensive networks in those countries.

As such, OAS/CICTE welcomes the appointment of regional coordinators for Africa and Asia and calls on the donor community not only to help ensure the sustainability of all regional

coordinator positions, but also to help consolidate this global network of coordinators to facilitate better cross-regional cooperation.

We understand that there are many pressing issues on the global agenda today, but we need to remember that no region – including the Western Hemisphere -- is immune from the threat of proliferation.

Prevention efforts, such as developing robust export control systems, strong legal and regulatory frameworks, and effective safety and security measures, is far more cost-effective than responding to an incident, whether intentional, accidental or naturally occurring. And OAS/CICTE will continue to seek the financial and human resources necessary to support sustainable prevention efforts in all of our Member States and help ensure that UNSCR 1540 implementation remains at the forefront our global, regional and national security agendas.

Thank you.