

**Remarks by Member of the Committee Established pursuant to UN Security Council
Resolution 1540 (2004) at
Training Course for the 1540 Points of Contact
in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region
24-28 October 2016
Santiago, Chile**

First, on behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the government of Chile for taking the initiative to host the first training course for the 1540 national Points of Contact in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. This will be a third course of this kind after courses the Asia and Pacific region, hosted by China and the second for OSCE States, hosted by the Russian Federation.

I would like to begin with a reminder of the proliferation risks we all face. The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 twelve years ago indicates the political convergence on this matter and its seriousness that affects all States both directly and indirectly. The potentially devastating effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, and possibly into the hands of terrorists, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. You are already aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak in various parts of the world. While much of the activity surrounding UN resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concern procedures, compliance mechanisms and the like, we should not lose sight of what we are trying to prevent. Resolution 1540 is a preventive resolution.

We have entered an era in which terrorist groups and their supporters are ready to commit extreme violence on a wide scale. We should be conscious of the possibility of the use of other WMD with even more devastating effects. Given the global nature of the challenge posed by the proliferation of the capabilities and technologies that can be used by non-State actors for this purpose no State is exempt from making every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

While you will hear a lot more about this later in the course I feel it is important that I state the essence of the obligations so that you have in your minds, from the start, the broad scope of the binding obligations. States are required to:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities are embraced in implementing these obligations. Among them are export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. Of course, while it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems. Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks. These need to be countered by adaptation of measures in place or by the introduction of new measures. Effective implementation requires our constant attention. In this regard, I would like to highlight that compared with 2010, in 2015 the Committee recorded an increase in measures taken by States in Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004), in particular those related to the legislative measures aimed at prohibiting non-state actors in engaging activities contained in the resolution which increased by 18%. However further measures are still needed in terms of those controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD and related materials.

National Points of Contact should play an important role in this regard as members of what the 1540 Committee hopes will be a “living network”. By this we mean not just through connecting with 1540 Committee and its supporting Group of Experts, but also with each other. Resolution 1540 is at heart a collaborative resolution and can only be effective if States collaborate with each other on a bilateral, sub-regional or even a regional basis.

I am glad to tell you that the overwhelming majority of States have demonstrated their commitment to resolution 1540 through reporting to the 1540 Committee on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is

worthy of note that to date 176 countries have reported on the measures they have taken for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that ninety per cent of UN Member States have reported. In this region, all but one State have presented at least one report. This is a practical indication of commitment to the objectives of the resolution and enables the 1540 Committee to engage in dialogue with States in order to enhance implementation.

While reporting is very important, what really matters is the effectiveness of the practical steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful tool, among others, is the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP). These plans can help in closing gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and controls. Some States in this region have opted to close potential gaps through the development of a NAP. In this regard, we would like to recognize the work of our partners in the region, namely the United Nations Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), the Organisation of American States and CARICOM.

I'm delighted to see that [more than twenty] 1540 National Points of Contact from the region are participating in this course. I consider that you have a very important role to play in your countries in supporting your respective States in fulfilling their obligations derived from resolution 1540 (2004). You may also play a role in ensuring that government departments and agencies that have responsibilities with regard to implementing the obligations under resolution 1540 are engaged as well as the appropriate parts of civil society and parliamentarians

As I mentioned earlier the 1540 Committee is very keen to enhance the role of 1540 national Points of Contact. The Committee is seeking ways to build on their potential to play an important part in maintaining and improving 1540 implementation.

I would like to turn now to the all-important Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540. In accordance with Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided on two reviews of the status of implementation of the resolution – one five years after the adoption of the resolution and a second prior to expiry of the 1540 Committee's mandate in 2021. The Comprehensive Review is a complex process that has been conducted for the past year. This Review will be both retrospective and forward-

looking. It should draw on an analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) over the past five years, with the aim of improving the implementation of the resolution by Member States, by identifying and recommending specific, practical and appropriate actions to this end, and to analyse the operation of the Committee in the conduct of its tasks and recommend any changes considered necessary.

In the process, the Committee, in addition to engaging with Member States, has interacted, as appropriate, with international organisations, academics, industry and parliamentarians. Now, the draft report is under the Committee's review and will be submitted to the Security Council by the end of November.

The process has offered a good opportunity for Member States and other participants to reflect on how resolution 1540 has been able to fulfil its main objective and to make concrete proposals. In this regard, proposals were made by several States from Latin America and the Caribbean during the open meeting that took place in June; most of these proposals were focused on ways to improve the 1540 assistance mechanism.

The aim of the course on which you are about to embark is to equip you to be an effective 1540 Point of Contact within your own country and to be a direct link to the 1540 Committee and to other 1540 Points of Contact in your region and beyond. You will learn more in detail about the obligations on States deriving from the resolution and you will obtain a better understanding of how your government can implement these obligations effectively. Conditions vary in all your countries – there is not a “one-size fits all” solution to effective implementation. However, there is no doubt that there is much to learn through the sharing of experiences. This is very much what we hope will take place during this course that is intended to be interactive in nature.

I very much hope that you will take advantage of the expertise available to you from the international organisations taking part and from the participating members of the 1540 Group of Experts that support the Committee.

While during this course you will be hearing a lot from those briefing you I very much hope that we will get feedback from you on how you can fulfil your responsibilities in helping your governments meet their obligations under resolution 1540 – and what help you might need in this regard.

I must pay tribute to the international organisations that have sent representatives to help run this course. Your expertise is essential to the successful conduct of the course.

Thanks are also due to UNLIREC for their support in making this course possible. Thanks are also due to the Republic of Korea and the United States for their generous funding support for the course.

Finally, once again heartfelt thanks must go to Chile for taking the initiative in hosting this event and for their kind hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.