

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Speakers of Parliaments,  
Secretary General,**

I would like first to express, on behalf of Members of the 1540 Committee and of myself, as Chair, our gratitude to you for having been afforded this truly exceptional opportunity to address the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. Since the adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004 and the subsequent establishment of its monitoring Committee, this is our first occasion to reach out to leaders of national legislatures to inform them of achievements and challenges ahead, and, more importantly, to seek their invaluable support in what is the primary step of paramount importance in the implementation of resolution 1540, namely the transposition of its provisions into national legislation. I am particularly glad that this opportunity is taken in conjunction with my distinguished colleagues chairing the other two anti-terrorism subsidiary bodies established by the Security Council, for it is in synergy and partnership that we carry out our respective mandates.

If I could now take your Excellencies through a quick overview of what Resolution 1540 stands for, I would portray its adoption as a major step ahead for the entire global framework of non-proliferation undertakings. Resolution 1540 focuses generally on the threat of WMD proliferation. It obligates States to refrain from providing any support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use weapons of mass destruction and related materials. The resolution also obligates States to adopt and enforce effective laws which prevent non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring, or using weapons of mass destruction and related materials. It requires States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. Indeed, never before has the issue of non-proliferation been dealt with at such a comprehensive level, and never before has the issue of countering terrorism globally been dealt with in respect of its nexus with WMDs and related materials or technology. Resolution 1540 is important precisely because it fills in these major gaps. It is meant to prevent today's international security's worst-case scenario, whereby WMDs could proliferate.

Resolution 1540 does not conflict with or alter rights and obligations of State Parties to existing international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. It lays down additional obligations with a view to fill in the gaps in current non-proliferation regimes, while not hampering international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

Resolution 1540 aims, among other things, to prevent the proliferation of WMD, including by preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Such acts are to be criminalized by all States through domestic legislation. Appropriate specialized legislation and administrative machinery are to be put in place or improved; adequate controls, primarily export and border controls, are to be effected or strengthened. On the one hand, Resolution 1540 institutes binding far-reaching obligations on all States to take legislative and administrative action in accordance with their domestic legal framework. On the other hand, it does not prescribe to the last detail specific standards that have to be implemented at the national level.

Legislative measures to counter proliferation remain primarily within the responsibility of Member States of the U.N., and ultimately the implementation of Resolution 1540 is a national function and responsibility. That is what makes the role of national legislatures so crucial for achieving the goals that prompted the Security Council into passing Resolution 1540. Your personal leadership, in particular, is what could make a genuine difference in this regard.

At this juncture, there is a special reference that I would like to make, and that concerns the need to create general awareness of the fact that the regime set up by Resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only Member States that possess the relevant WMD-related technology. The nexus between WMDs and terrorism can be realized anywhere in our globalized world. Every single country and nation has to get involved in this global effort. There is no safe haven in the face of this compact of ubiquitous contemporary terrorization.

National implementation and national reporting are therefore key to the effective implementation of Resolution 1540. These are implicitly enablers for the 1540 Committee to carry out the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

As of today, 121 reports have reached the Committee. The majority of UN Member States have presented information on non-proliferation measures taken on the national plane, including on their contributions to international cooperation and assistance in this field.

However, 70 Member States have yet to report. We recognize that some States may encounter administrative difficulties in coping with that primary obligation. Some States might consider that they have nothing to report, as they neither possess WMDs nor the capacity to develop such weapons or related materials. However, there are other ways in which other States or, for example, non-state actors might seek to

exploit their territory – using it for instance to ship goods across in transit, or for financing of illegal activity, or as a base to broker the sale of WMD-related goods in other countries.

Recent events have shown that nobody is shielded from these threats. States should be aware that unless they meet their obligations in full, by enacting and enforcing national legal and regulatory measures and by committing to international cooperation on non-proliferation, their territories could be exploited in the worst possible way.

In considering national reports, the Committee has already identified and put together both needs and offers of assistance. We are encouraged by the fact that many countries are already helping with expertise and advice to States lacking knowledge, experience or resources to implement Resolution 1540. The Committee already gave structural indication on the concrete areas where assistance can be provided by a specific country, as well as the way in which contacts for assistance are to be established on a bilateral basis.

The Committee will continue to develop its work in this area, and to act as a clearing house on the issue of assistance. We stand ready to consider all requests from States seeking help to implement Resolution 1540 and to facilitate contacts with donor countries and organizations.

Full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term objective. It will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels on capacity-building and assistance, made by States in implementing this resolution.

The first measure of success in the implementation of Resolution 1540 is tied up to the degree of advancement in worldwide awareness of, and respect for, the letter and spirit of its provisions,

For that, we need your leadership and active support in making sure that legislation referred to in Resolution 1540 is in place, in overseeing subsequent measures to be developed by Governments, and last but not least, that countries do report to the 1540 Committee and engage with it on eventual assistance requirements.

I would like to conclude by thanking you once more for this opportunity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.