



Security Council Committee Established Pursuant to Resolution 1540

8 October 2024

Open Briefing, ECOSOC - Statement by Australia

Delivered by Senator the Honourable David Fawcett

Check against delivery.

Thank you chair.

Australia would like to thank Ecuador for convening this open debate and commend Ambassador De La Gasca's ongoing leadership on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540) committee. We commend the 1540 Committee for their leadership and their continued professionalism, integrity, and impartiality in supporting the implementation of this resolution. We appreciated the open briefing in March this year to discuss progress on 1540, and we welcome the opportunity to underline Australia's support for the resolution today.

Australia has a proud history of advocating for non-proliferation and disarmament. Australia is strongly committed to UNSCR 1540 as a cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.



The risk of terrorists or other non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) is a risk for global non-proliferation. This resolution is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring WMDs, and their means of delivery, do not fall into the wrong hands.

It is imperative that the Committee, and the 1540 Group of Experts, are empowered to take forward their work in support of the full implementation of the resolution. We welcome the establishment of the Asia Regional Coordinator Office, which has done much to advance awareness in the Indo-Pacific region. We will continue to work with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs and UNSC 1540 Committee on regional capacity building, including to support Pacific Island States in their implementation of the resolution.

Australia calls on all states to fully comply with their commitments and obligations under the resolution. UNSCR 1540 encourages states to seek assistance to implement measures, such as legislation, to ensure no WMD's are developed in their territories and no WMD's are supplied to non-state actors – including transshipments. Australia welcomes the opportunity to support regional partners, and we look forward to continuing to work with the 1540 Committee to advance implementation in the Indo-Pacific.



I would like to highlight the work of the multilateral export control regimes in assisting countries to fulfill their obligations under 1540. Australia is privileged to be the permanent Chair of the Australia Group, which plays an important role in countering the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.

Export controls play a critical role in building confidence and facilitating the legitimate exchange of material and technologies for peaceful purposes. The Australia Group is a dynamic and transparent group which provides public control lists for states to use in their own systems. We encourage all states to use the Australia Group control lists, and welcome discussions on how the Australia Group can support States' implementation of UNSCR 1540 obligations.

Australia is proud to support the activities of the 1540 Committee and the Group of Experts.

Thank you