



Statement to be delivered by Ambassador Trishala Persaud, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations at the Open Briefing for Member States and International, Regional and Sub-regional Organisations by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

9 October 2024

ECOSOC Chamber

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Nakamitsu for her remarks and thank you Mr. Chair for your update on the activities of the 1540 Committee.

Guyana welcomes the convening of this Open Briefing, which provides an opportunity to share experiences in relation to the implementation of resolution 1540 and to present offers of assistance.

We believe that today's briefing is timely and allows the 1540 Committee to hear first-hand from Member States about their needs and challenges in implementing the resolution. Further, the information provided today and during the interactive dialogue tomorrow will assist the Committee in better fulfilling its mandate, including by facilitating assistance requests from Member States.

Mr. Chair,

Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), as the name suggests, are catastrophic in nature when used. As such the international community must make greater efforts to prevent the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction as part of our collective efforts to maintain international peace and security.

Resolution 1540 was adopted 20 years ago to address comprehensively the non-proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery, requiring all states to adopt legislation and establish effective national systems of control to prevent the proliferation and trafficking of such weapons. The resolution also speaks to prohibiting the acquisition and use of these weapons by non-State actors, including for terrorist purposes. The work of the 1540 Committee, supported by the Group of Experts, is therefore indispensable to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the resolution.

Mr. Chair,

Since the adoption of resolution 1540, Guyana has submitted its first implementation report and two additional reports. We have passed legislation that criminalises the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and prohibits the control, manufacture and acquisition of nuclear weapons and other such explosive weapons. Additionally, our Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act strengthens measures to prevent proliferation financing. We also remain committed to implementing our obligations under the relevant international instruments, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chair,

As we advance our efforts towards the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, I highlight three areas of focus:

First, the need for international cooperation and assistance. We believe that it is critical for States to cooperate to address the threats posed by these types of weapons. This cooperation can take the form of technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives where countries in a position to do so can assist other countries who may have difficulties implementing resolution 1540.

In this regard, Guyana supports the convening of more regional Points of Contact training courses by the 1540 Committee to build the capacities towards national implementation efforts.

Second, the need for public awareness and education. It is vital for the international community to understand the dangers posed by WMDs and of the potential consequences of their use. More emphasis should be placed on strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and on actions that promote this. To this end, we underscore the importance of the 1540 Committee continuing its outreach activities across the different regions of the world.

Third, the need for diplomacy and dialogue. Instead of resorting to the use of WMDs, countries should engage in more meaningful dialogue to resolve conflicts and to peacefully settle disputes with each other. These dialogues must also include the voices of youths and women.

Only through sustained dialogue and diplomacy can we truly make progress in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Guyana reiterates its commitment to supporting the work of the 1540 Committee and to ensuring the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540. We believe this is the steppingstone towards ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you !