

1540 Committee Open Briefing

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by  
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Israel greatly values the work of the 1540 committee and sees it as an important asset in our global toolbox to counter proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery to Non-state actors. We remain open to utilizing this tool and sharing our expertise with others, and hope the committee members can together build an ambitious program of work.

Mr. Chair, the past two years since the last open consultations, have been dramatic with the intensification of malign interaction between certain states and NSAs. As we speak, there are states that train, arm and instruct NSAs to act and terrorize, in order to escape accountability and responsibility. States around the world and across regions are thus exposed to malicious terrorist activities by groups that are armed and funded by notorious state actors, and threatened by terrorists that benefit from the failures to stop illicit flow and diversion of arms. **20 years after the establishment of the 1540 committee, its work should be seen as more vital than ever before.**

The Iranian regime has blatantly violated all of its obligations under UNSCR 2231, especially Annex B. It continues to proliferate advanced missiles and UAVs to numerous terrorist organizations in the Middle East - violating SCR resolutions 1701 and 2216, and 1540 of course - as well as to various conflicts around the world. The Iranian-made missiles - which could easily be classified as “means of delivery”- carry strategic capabilities such as precision guided munitions. By proliferating them to terrorist groups and other irresponsible partners, Iran risks escalating conflicts and wars to unimaginable magnitudes.

Mr. Chair, the implications of Iran’s behavior are open for all to see – Hezbollah targeting Israel and bringing the region to the brink of total war with advanced Iranian missiles and UAVs; the Houthis sinking global shipping on maritime routes with Cruise Missiles and launching UAVs at commercial vessels and Israeli cities; Shi’ite militias in Iraq launching offensive UAVs; and of course Hamas’s Jihadist

war against Israel, since October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, which has pushed the region into turmoil, using Iranian funding and training. Colleagues, let us be clear, the relationship between Iran and its proxies is vivid and blunt beyond doubt.

This could frighteningly be just the tip of the iceberg. Try and imagine what might happen should Iran actually acquire Nuclear Weapon capabilities, as it seeks to. What kind of future would our world enter if such brutal terrorists would enjoy an Iranian “Nuclear Umbrella”. Would oil tankers in the Arab Gulf be safe if the Houthis held WMDs? What about flights across the Mediterranean Sea, if WMDs were in the hands of Hezbollah?

In the context of proliferation, one must not forget other WMDs too. We grow increasingly alarmed that Iran is weaponizing pharmaceutical-based agents for military purposes as part of a chemical weapons program, and arming their affiliated terrorist groups with such chemical weapons.

Syria, which is notorious for using Chemical Weapons against its people, is another potentially volatile arena in that regard. Both Iran and Syria’s track record of non-compliance with international treaties shows that they will never let morality or norms on “responsible state behavior” stop them. This is why we need united and assertive actions by the international community to stop Iran, Syria and other rogue regimes. Among other means and actions, it requires all states to remain vigilant, to cooperate with one another, to implement the core tasks of resolution 1540 and strengthen its mandate, and of course improve enforcement. Israel stands ready to continue doing so.

Thank you