

Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the Open Briefing on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540

(9 October 2024)

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for convening this important open briefing.

2. International instruments to address WMD threats to international peace and security should be developed through multilaterally negotiated instruments, including through the Conference on Disarmament.

3. Nevertheless, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, Pakistan participated actively, in the formulation and negotiation of Resolution 1540.

4. Pakistan has successfully implemented its obligations under the resolution 1540. We have established: (i) a robust command and control system;(ii) a rigorous legislative, administrative and enforcement mechanism to regulate the transfer of

sensitive goods and technologies; and (iii) a comprehensive export control regime of the highest international standards.

5. Pakistan has submitted six reports, including (a) comprehensive matrix; (b) appointed the National Point of Contact; (c) adopted a voluntary National Action Plan; (d) offered technical assistance to several countries to help implement 1540 resolution; and (e) promoted regional cooperation for effective implementation of the resolution, including a “Regional Seminar on implementation of 1540” to share best practices and national experiences.

6. Pakistan believes that the 1540 Committee should continue to focus on capacity building and voluntary assistance. There is need to further refine the assistance mechanism by enabling States to submit more specific assistance offers and requests corresponding to the various provisions of the 1540 matrix.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Security Council should be deeply concerned at the recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in our Eastern neighbor. In the latest incident last August 2024, a group was found in illegal possession of a large quantity of highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium, worth US\$ 100 million. Three incidents of theft of Californium were reported in 2021 in the same country.

8. These incidents suggest the existence of a black market for sensitive materials. Pakistan reiterates its call for a thorough investigation of these incidents and adequate measures to prevent their recurrence.

9. While preventing non-state actors from acquiring sensitive materials, rights of States to peaceful use of dual-use technologies must be safeguarded. Export-control regimes should not serve as tools of coercion and discrimination.

10. This Council, or the General Assembly, should establish an all-inclusive Open-Ended Working Group to ensure equitable access to technologies and to address cases of denial, which are discriminatory and impede development.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The principal driver of proliferation is the insecurity of States. Unless this is addressed non-proliferation will not be assured globally.

I thank you.