

**Statement by Mr. Sunghoon Kim**  
**Counsellor of the Republic of Korea**  
**Security Council Open Briefing on Resolution 1540**  
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to first thank High Representative Nakamitsu for the briefing. I would also like to thank the Chair of the 1540 Committee and his team as well as the 1540 Committee Group of Experts for its indispensable role.

Today, we gather to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). This marks a pivotal moment in multilateral and global effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ensure that such deadly weapons will not fall into the hands of non-state actors.

Twenty years ago, the world faced growing threats of WMD terrorism by groups with no regard for human life and or international stability. But we didn't remain idle. This Council adopted the resolution 1540 to mobilize concrete actions and measures to the looming threat. As a binding international norm under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, resolution 1540 underscored the importance of international cooperation, national measures, and strengthening of global security. Subsequent efforts continued on with several resolutions including the most recent Resolution 2663 (2022).

Our collective endeavors over the past two decades to uphold 1540 has significantly contributed to advancing the global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chair,

Despite past achievements, our work is far from complete. The fight against the proliferation of WMDs is a long-term and collective task, which requires sustained outreach efforts and active engagement of all Member States. In this regard, my delegation would like to highlight a few points.

First, the international community must proactively address the new emerging proliferation threats. We are witnessing scientific and technological developments in the biological, chemical and nuclear fields, and there is quantum leap advancement in artificial intelligence. While these developments have the potential to revolutionize biochemistry, medicine, and agriculture, the same technologies could also be used to create dangerous chemical weapons or pathogens. Technologies related to nuclear weapons and missiles can be stolen by malicious cyber activity. Also, proliferators are financing their WMD programs through illicit cyber activities, which have become a primary source of revenue for the DPRK's WMD programs. We must adapt accordingly in the face of evolving threats.

Second, governments and private sectors should work together to develop effective safeguards and monitoring mechanisms. Only with concerted

efforts by all stakeholders can we prevent the risk of WMD proliferation posed by rapidly advancing science, technology and international commerce.

Third, we must promote cooperation between resolution 1540 and other non-proliferation or counter-proliferation related norms and initiatives, as well as other multilateral export control regimes. The Republic of Korea stresses the importance of further enhancing cooperation between the 1540 Committee and relevant regimes, such as the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA). In this vein, we should not undermine but uphold multilateral export control regimes given the importance of combatting the pressing proliferation threats and challenges.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea is currently a Member of the Security Council and the 1540 Committee. Through its financial contributions, Korea has continued to support the activities of the 1540 committee in the Asia-Pacific Region and beyond. Korea hosted the High-level Political Meeting in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) last year. Also, while recognizing the urgent need to enhance regional capacity to combat proliferation financing in Asia, Korea co-hosted a workshop on counter-proliferation financing with the UNODC in June this year. Korea has

been putting its full efforts into strengthening its domestic system to safeguard global non-proliferation regimes.

The Republic of Korea will continue to work closely with international partners, such as UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and regional organizations to provide necessary assistance and conduct outreach to implement resolution 1540.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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