



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

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Minister Councilor and Political Coordinator

AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL:

“1540 OPEN BRIEFING FOR MEMBER STATES AND
INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS”

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Mr. President,

1. I thank you for convening this open briefings on the status of resolution 1540 implementation as it aims to provide a valuable opportunity for Member States and International, Regional and subregional Organizations (IROs) to present their offers of assistance, and for member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation.
2. I also thank **Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca (Ecuador)**, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), (the 1540 Committee), for his insightful brief on the summary of activities of the Committee on all aspects of resolution 1540, including on assistance matters.

Mr. President,

3. At the outset, Sierra Leone reaffirms its support for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and effective measures to prevent non-State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using weapons

of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to establish domestic controls to prevent their proliferation.

4. The Risk of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security. With the rapid advancement in science and technology, Sierra Leone remains gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials. Sierra Leone reaffirms its support for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Treaty on the non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

5. However, we stress that prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes while recalling that such cooperation should not be misused for purposes of

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as their means of delivery.

6. Mr. President,

7. Sierra Leone commends the Chair and the 1540 Committee for the progress on the activities. We recognize the significance of this landmark resolution in addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its continued importance in maintaining international peace and security.

8. Sierra Leone acknowledges the efforts made by Member States towards the full implementation of resolution 1540, recognizing it as a long-term commitment that requires continuous collaboration and support. We also acknowledge the challenges faced by member States, including resource constraints and technical expertise, in fully implementing resolution 1540. To that end, Sierra Leone welcomes the offers of assistance by Member States and by international, regional and subregional organizations. In particular, we appreciate the 46 Member States and 20 IROs for their offers of assistance. We appreciate the efforts of the 1540 Committee for its vital role in facilitating assistance to Member States, matching

assistance requests with offers of support and capacity development to address these challenges in fulfilling their obligations under resolution 1540 and promoting effective practices.

Mr. President,

9. At this point, let me use this opportunity to share Sierra Leone's experience, and lessons learned regarding request for assistance and offer assistance for the implementation of UNSCR 1540. Sierra Leone's experience with the Committee and its support structure composed of the Group of Experts, officials in ODA and DPPA in relation to implementing all aspects of UN Resolution 1540 has been excellent. In 2021, Sierra Leone submitted a comprehensive assistance request to the UN 1540 Committee, reiterating our need for support in the areas of technical advisory services, training, and capacity building for our national institutions. The Chairman of the Committee informed the Committee and immediately acknowledge receipt of our request. The Committee and Group of Experts informed potential Member States and IROs who could offer assistance to Sierra Leone. They also matched the offers to our

request. The Chairman then informed Sierra Leone in July 2022 that the following Member States and UN organization had expressed interests in providing assistance to Sierra Leone: Norway, Pakistan, BWC Implementation Support Unit, Organization for the Prohibition of CW, UNODA, UNODC, UNOCT and IAEA.

10. To the offers made in 2022, some action are already ongoing. Sierra Leone is making progress in the implementation of all aspect of UNSCR 1540. However, Sierra Leone continue to require assistance in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). It is observed that Sierra Leone's request was very broad. The assistance providers emphasize that the request should be specific and more detailed to know the target audience and intended goals to be achieved. They need to understand the situation in the country to customize the assistance. We stresses the importance of specificity to get enhanced, tailored and timely assistance which meets your needs.

11. Additionally, the sharing of best practices through peer reviews is essential in enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of resolution 1540. Sierra Leone supports these initiatives and

encourages member States to continue their engagements in these activities to strengthen their compliance with the resolution.

12. In conclusion, **Mr. President**, Sierra Leone reaffirms its commitment to upholding the non-proliferation mandate outlined in resolution 1540 (2004) and pledges to continue working collaboratively with the international community to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and safeguard global peace and security. Sierra Leone extends its gratitude to the Committee members, the Group of Experts, officials in ODA and DPPA, and staff for their dedication and support in advancing the objectives of resolution 1540.

13. **I thank you.**

