



Statement by

Ambassador Samuel Žbogar

Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Security Council

at the

Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations by the Security Council 1540 Committee

New York, 9 October 2024

Excellencies, colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ambassador De La Gasca. Your leadership and tireless efforts in guiding the work of this Committee are truly commendable. I also thank USG Nakamitsu for her insightful opening remarks.

Excellencies,

After 20 years, resolution 1540 remains a landmark accomplishment in the global fight against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It has been instrumental in bolstering international efforts to prevent the acquisition, development, and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

We applaud all efforts for its full and universal implementation. These efforts alone have played a vital role in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

I would like to commend also the dedicated and professional work of the Group of Experts and recognize their indispensable role in advancing resolution 1540's objectives.

Excellencies,

we live in times when the rhetoric about the use of weapons of mass destruction is resurfacing.

We live in a world that is increasingly interconnected, and driven by rapid advancements in science and technology, including by emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence. In a world where weapons of mass destruction related materials and expertise can spread faster than ever before. And a world of multiple conflicts.

These circumstances need to trigger innovative approaches. It requires full engagement of all stakeholders, but first and foremost the Member States. We must ensure that the Resolution 1540 continues to be relevant and effective.

Excellencies,

Slovenia has been all this time a strong advocate of efforts to prevent non-State actors from acquiring and using nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, as well as the materials and means of delivery associated with them. Domestically, we have enacted comprehensive legislation that criminalizes weapons of mass destruction proliferation. Our legal framework includes strict controls over the production, sale, and transfer of sensitive materials, along with enhanced penalties for violations. Additionally, we conduct regular training for law enforcement, customs, and border officials to ensure they are well equipped to detect, deter and prevent proliferation activities.

Through our partnerships with neighboring countries and regional organizations, we have strengthened information-sharing mechanisms and cooperative initiatives in areas such as export control and enforcement.

Slovenia also recognizes the vital role of industry and the private sector in non-proliferation efforts. This collaboration has improved compliance with export control laws and raised awareness of proliferation risks across these industries.

Moreover, Slovenia remains committed to promoting gender equality across all aspects of our non-proliferation work, in alignment with the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Excellencies,

The threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the hands of non-State actors and terrorist organizations, remains a serious and persistent concern. It is our shared responsibility - not only to mitigate this threat, but to work tirelessly toward its complete eradication. In this regard, we look forward to continued collaboration with the 1540 Committee and all stakeholders.

Thank you.