

**OPEN BRIEFING FOR MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL,
REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)**

UK Statement

9 October 2024

I thank the Chair of the 1540 Committee for convening today's open briefing and for his comprehensive update on Committee activities.

The UK commends the Chair for his proactive stewardship, his efforts to rejuvenate the Committee, and his determination to overcome obstructions to our work.

The UK also commends the contribution by the Committee's Group of Experts to implementation of the resolution. Their technical knowledge and experience are vital assets to the Committee's assistance to states.

Twenty years ago, the Security Council adopted 1540 to respond to concerns about the threat posed to all by non-state actors and the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The threat has evolved, and new challenges are emerging. Last month, the Pact for the Future committed us all to - "*Strengthen measures to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors*".

The work of our Committee is a vital part of that effort. It is essential that all members give their full support, not seek to obstruct progress. Common purpose would allow the Committee to focus more time on the key areas identified in the current mandate, including enforcement; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; and national exports and trans-shipment.

Full implementation remains a long-term task. The UK has continued to promote universalisation and is proud of the support we have been able to offer others. This year, we have assisted countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands with the development and adoption of legislative and regulatory measures to implement their obligations under 1540, the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention.

20 years on from the adoption of 1540, its obligations remain as relevant as ever. But the global context in which states implement them has changed. The risks of WMD proliferation to non-state actors are grave. Collectively, we must increase our efforts to address them.

Thank you.