

**Remarks of Ms. Maria Eugenia Rettori, Head, Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit,
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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

On behalf of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), I would like to thank the Chair of the 1540 Committee for giving us an opportunity to brief the forum about the work we have been conducting in support of the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

In this respect, UNOCT is mandated by the General Assembly to provide capacity-building support to Members States to take and strengthen measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials.

Since 2019, UNOCT, through its Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), has been an official provider of assistance, supporting Member State's requests of technical assistance in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) on counter-terrorism related matters. UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons, conducted awareness-raising activities and provided capacity-building support, reaching over 8,000 government officials, since its establishment.

Our capacity-building provision of assistance focuses mostly on supporting Member States in the implementation of the operational paragraph 3 of the resolution 1540, on domestic controls of related materials, in particular, a) effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport; b) physical protection measures and c) border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat (...) illicit trafficking and brokering.

In this regard, we are pleased to share our most recent success story of UNOCT equipping and training the Border Troops of Tajikistan to combat radiological and nuclear terrorism, as a response to the request of assistance received via Committee, in August 2022. This support was delivered in partnership with and thanks to funding from the European Union (EU) through the EU-UN Global Threats Facility and the UNOCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons.

Today, an official ceremony was organized in Dushanbe to mark the formal hand-over of radiation detection equipment to the national authorities. Through the provision of specialized equipment and capacity-building training, UNOCT is contributing to Tajikistan's enhanced capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to cross-border trafficking of R/N materials, in line with the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Additionally, UNOCT works closely with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the 1540 Group of Experts, by ensuring coordination and mutual participation in relevant events. In line with this, UNOCT will contribute to the upcoming Training Course for UNSCR 1540 Points of Contact in Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa in November 2024.

This important work is made possible through the extrabudgetary support from a number of Member States, which we are grateful for. To continue to support Member States in the implementation of resolution 1540 additional financial support is needed and we welcome any opportunity to work with Member States in this regard.

UNOCT remains committed to assisting Member States in building their capacities to be better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction with the goal of making the world both more secure and achieving a future free from terrorism and a world free from nuclear weapons, as committed by world leaders in the Pact for the Future.

I thank you for your attention.