



Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

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UNODC statement

Delivered by Ms Maria Lorenzo Sobrado, Head, CBRN Terrorism Prevention Programme, Terrorism Prevention Branch

Your Excellency Ambassador Jose Javier de La Gasca,

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

UNODC is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote the universalization and effective implementation of nineteen international legal instruments against terrorism. Seven of these instruments deal – to various degrees – with the prevention and suppression of chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism.

Allow me to underline the fact that there are important synergies between United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and these seven instruments. In particular, implementing their criminalization provisions is one step that States may take towards fulfilling their obligations under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540. These obligations include, for example, the adoption and enforcement of “appropriate effective laws” prohibiting non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially for terrorist purposes.

I am delighted to emphasize that, given these synergies and complementarities, UNODC has a long history of cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. For example:

- The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism Prevention Programme of UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch invites the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts to contribute as appropriate to its activities against CBRN terrorism, and vice versa (by way of example, last month a representative of the 1540 Group of Experts participated in the first UNODC International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) Universalization Youth Academy, held in Vienna, Austria, and next month UNODC will contribute to the 1540 Points of Contact in Africa meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia);
- Our Office offers technical assistance to Member States in the framework of the matchmaking facilitated by the Committee;
- Experts from the 1540 Committee contributed to the development of UNODC's Module on the International Legal Framework against CBRN Terrorism.

UNODC also contributed to meetings related to "1540" voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs). We are pleased to see that, as suggested by UNODC, many of these NAPs include a part on adherence to and full implementation of the seven international legal instruments against CBRN terrorism. **We continue to recommend, and stand ready to uphold, the inclusion of all aforementioned seven international legal instruments in all future NAPs as appropriate.**

Most recently, UNODC participated in the development of the NAP of Ecuador at a meeting organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and OAS/CICTE last June. Thanks to funding from the Government of Canada, UNODC has supported, and will continue to support, simultaneous interpretation for preparatory and follow-up online meetings on Ecuador's NAP.

UNODC and the 1540 Group of Experts have held regular informal meetings to update each other on upcoming events and other matters of mutual interest.

UNODC celebrates that, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of resolution 1540, UNICRI has relaunched the 1540 Compass publication. Our Office was honored to be featured in the first issue with an article on the relevance of our work to the implementation of the resolution.

It is also worth noting that as an integral element of the Strategic Trade and Export Control training carried out by UNODC's Passenger and Cargo Border Control Programme, a module dedicated to resolution 1540 is delivered to Port Control Unit and Air Cargo Control Unit officers, thus increasing awareness on this important resolution. Particularly relevant to the responsibilities of these officers is operative paragraph 3(c) of the resolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNODC has been continually promoting the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism and assisting requesting Member States with its implementation, thus contributing to their fulfilment of some of their obligations under resolution 1540.

Our work in this field is currently carried out under the framework of complementary projects, which reinforce each other, funded by Canada, the European Union and the United States of America.

Our projects are carried out taking into account gender issues. UNODC has worked for many years to promote women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and integration of gender perspectives into peace and security issues through its legislative and technical assistance to Member States. In 2019, we launched the first of its kind "Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism", followed by several manuals tailored to national contexts which are actively being utilized to promote gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in efforts to address terrorism across the globe. UNODC fully supports the integration of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda into the regime surrounding the implementation of Resolution 1540.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the year of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of this crucial resolution, we at UNODC continue to recognize the key role that it plays in preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors and stand ready to continue to support its implementation within our mandate.

Thank you.