

ZIMBABWE STATEMENT AT THE UNSC 1540 COMMITTEE OPEN BRIEFING: 9 OCTOBER 2024

Thank you Chair,

Zimbabwe conveys its appreciation to you, Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca, Chair of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, for the convening of this annual briefing for Member States. We are also thankful for the summary of activities undertaken by the Committee during the period under review. This meeting also marks 20 years since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, on 28 April 2004, as an integral part of the international non-proliferation regime, which makes this an auspicious moment. We applaud the continued efforts of the 1540 Committee, as well as the UN Secretariat and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in this regard.

While the scourge of international terrorism continues to present a serious threat to life, infrastructure and property everywhere, this is compounded by the real prospects of terrorists and other malicious non-State actors gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. The 1540 Resolution helps to address these asymmetric threats presented by malicious non-State actors, through the implementation of measures to ensure that they are

effectively impeded from accessing biological, chemical, nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction.

Chairperson,

Zimbabwe has established a National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention to oversee the full implementation of the resolution. Furthermore, Zimbabwe has instituted measures to prevent non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

In line with its international non-proliferation obligations, Zimbabwe's legislation provides for appropriate laws and regulations to control the export, transit and trans-shipment of chemicals that may be precursors to chemical weapons, hazardous substances and other items, and for the enforcement of appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.

Chairperson,

Zimbabwe reiterates the imperative for enhanced cooperation between the 1540 Committee and other UN subsidiary bodies dealing with counter-terrorism issues, and to promote information sharing, coordinate visits to countries and in the provision of technical assistance programmes, as appropriate. Additionally, we reinforce the desirability of capacitation provided for the implementation of resolution 1540 to be built into other national infrastructure development programmes in areas including port security and border control, transport safety and public health.

We appreciate the capacitation workshops that have been rolled out in various regions and Member States, including in Zimbabwe, to enable the implementation of resolution 1540. We also look forward to the November 2024 workshop for African 1540 Committee Points of Contact. We appeal for continued capacity building initiatives to keep the momentum and enhance the knowledge and skills base on this important issue.

In conclusion, Mr Chair, Zimbabwe assures the 1540 Committee of its full commitment and continued support.

I thank you