

OPEN BRIEFING ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540

AUSTRALIA STATEMENT

Thank you Chair.

UNSCR 1540 is a vital pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture. Australia takes our obligations under the resolution seriously—and we call on all states to do the same.

We congratulate the new members of the Group of Experts and the appointment of Panama as the new Chair. We thank you, Ambassador Alfaro de Alba, and all Committee members for your efforts to support the implementation of UNSCR 1540. We encourage the Committee to continue with its outreach work. Australia will continue to support these activities in our region. We expect all member states to support 1540 capacity building.

We underline that full implementation is essential. Our focus must be on strengthening implementation, including fundamental measures such as encouraging all countries that have yet to do so to establish a national Point of Contact and submit a first report on steps they have taken to implement UNSCR 1540.

To be effective, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts must be empowered to continue their critical work. We encourage all member states to support the Committee's Programme of Work and to give the committee unhindered ability to attend events and meetings in order to fully implement the mandate.

In our region, Australia values the work of the UNSCR1540 Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific and congratulate her on the positive effect she has had on regional 1540 engagement.

The resolution itself recognises that States may require assistance in implementing the requirements to prevent the proliferation of WMD to non-state actors. Australia encourages states to do so and stands ready to provide assistance.

The resolution is likewise very clear on the requirement for effective national export controls to prevent WMD proliferation.

Export controls build confidence and facilitate the legitimate exchange of material and technology for peaceful purposes.

As the Chair of the Australia Group, this year celebrating 40 years, we are proud of the global public goods we provide. Over 40 years, the AG has supported implementation of UNSCR 1540 and reduced proliferation risks through regular scientific and technical review, to inform updates to the publicly available Common Control Lists and Handbooks.

Chair

We are encouraged by the energy and commitment of Pacific Island countries to implement UNSCR 1540. In March 2025, we worked with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to host (with EU support) a workshop in Sydney for 13 Pacific countries on national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and UNSCR 1540. We shared experiences and discussed how to engage with national and international stakeholders and advance necessary measures such as national reporting.

We thank the 1540 Committee and Group of Experts for supporting the event and look forward to continuing our work to advance implementation and reduce the threat posed by WMD.

It is more vital than ever that states uphold their non-proliferation obligations and work cooperatively to counter the threat that WMD still pose.

Thank you.