



THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations
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Intervention by

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In

**The 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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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for inviting the League of Arab States to participate in this important meeting. This invitation reflects the growing recognition of the vital role played by regional organizations — including the League of Arab States — in strengthening collective efforts to maintain international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

The League of Arab States is deeply concerned about the danger posed by weapons of mass destruction. These weapons have the potential to cause devastating and indiscriminate harm. The risk becomes even more serious if such weapons, or the materials needed to produce them, fall into the hands of terrorist groups. This risk is increasing with rapid technological progress and the easier access to such materials, including through illicit channels.

We appreciate all the efforts by the 1540 (2004) committee, and its group of experts, to fulfill our commitments in the said resolution as well as resolution 2663 (2022), particularly the role that regional and international organizations can play, in providing the necessary

assistance to member states in their efforts to prevent non-state actors from obtaining nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, including through the measures clearly outlined in the resolutions and in the practices of member states.

Mr. Chair,

In this context, it is important to underline that the responsibility for implementing resolution 1540 (2004) does not rest solely with Member States and the Security Council. Regional and subregional organizations also have a key role to play in advancing this collective effort, as part of a constructive partnership between the United Nations and regional frameworks.

The League of Arab States does not have a particular “ offer of assistance” to provide to the committee at this stage, but would like to share some reflections on how best to ensure that states members of the League will remain committed to the cause and objectives of the implementation of the resolutions, particularly in view of the complexity surrounding the linkages between nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region and the existence of a non-state member of NPT in the region and the threats launched by an Israeli cabinet minister in 2023 to use nuclear weapons in Gaza. The question in the mind of many states in our region is how to make more commitments with regard to eliminating the threat of chemical and biological weapons if the region remains under such severe threat.

This problem is getting more compounded by the negative geopolitical climate in the Security Council, resulting in the use of veto six times on resolutions that aim at saving lives through cease fire in the military attacks by Israel against the state of Palestine, as well as the double standards applied, by providing Ukraine with the most sophisticated weapons to liberate its territories at the same time that Israel is being provided with the same sophisticated weapons to solidify its illegal and illegitimate occupation of the state of Palestine, and to allow Israel to intensify its military attacks, to commit genocide as recognized by the ICJ, and by using hunger as a tool of war to push the Palestinian population out of their state. All this while Israel is boycotting, with its close allies, six sessions of the conference held in the United Nations to establish a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and their delivery means remains an important priority.

Mr. Chair,

Despite all those severe contradictions, the commitment by the states members of the League is really strong to prevent the financing of proliferation- related activities, taking into account, Inter - Alia, the guidance of the framework of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and the need to complement the commitments made to other Security Council committees concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and Counter -terrorism.

In this regard, the Arab Counter Terrorism Strategy and its Action Plan, adopted by the Arab Council of Ministers of Interior, stress the need to intensify cooperation in preventing illicit trafficking in WMDs

and their means of delivery. The cooperation with the United Nations was instrumental in shaping both documents. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Office in the UN as well as with CTED and the 1540 committee to ensure that we remain on the same page.

This commitment is being globally solidified by the “Pact of the Future“, when our leaders adopted Action Agenda 26E on enhancing measures to prevent WMDs from slipping into the hands of non-state actors. The 1540 committee should benefit from this Summit Commitment to increase its ability to implement its mandate, taking also into account the commitments made by the Secretary-General in his “New Agenda for Peace”, supplementing his 2018 disarmament agenda under the title “Securing Our Common Future”.

The League of Arab States remains committed to overcoming all those obstacles and fully implementing the resolution in cooperation with the committee and its expert group and with the approval and commitment of its member states.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.