



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA

OPEN BRIEFING BY THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UNSC RESOLUTION 1540

29 OCTOBER 2025

Chairperson,

We thank you for convening the briefing on the activities of the 1540 Committee and the status of the implementation of the resolution. We also thank the Under Secretary-General and Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for his sobering remarks.

Given the current global challenges and their potential impact on international peace and security, including the risks of the threat of use of nuclear weapons and prevalence of proliferation of nuclear weapons, we believe that the vital work of the 1540 Committee should be intensified to ensure its full and effective implementation.

South Africa appreciates the Committee's continued efforts in its awareness-raising activities and values the collaborative role of the Committee in assisting States with their obligations in this regard.

We are of the view that the overwhelming response of the international community with regards to assistance and implementation bodes well for the resolution. Many States, including South Africa, have expressed and demonstrated their willingness to provide assistance to those States that request it.

In this regard, South Africa has, in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and other international partners, offered training workshops, peer-to-peer exercises and exchanges of experiences and sharing of knowledge with other African countries to build capacity on areas such as approaches to national institutional and regulatory frameworks, export control systems, developing control lists and national implementation priorities to mention a few. These exchanges are vital to national efforts that give effect to resolution 1540.

Chairperson,

The Committee's mandate has been integrated into the work of international and regional organisations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, which has thus provided a wealth of expertise and experience for States to draw upon in their implementation efforts.

South Africa, therefore, believes that preventing non-state actors from acquiring materials that could be used for development of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems is a critical task for the international community, and one that can only be achieved if we work together and speak with one voice.

South Africa concluded its chairship of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in July 2025. Although not a formal Group, the NSG plays a significant role in contributing to the global efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. On the sidelines of the NSG Plenary held in Cape Town, a collective outreach seminar, a first of its kind to be held on the African Continent was hosted to discuss and further raise awareness on effective measures to prevent nuclear proliferation.

South Africa reiterates its emphasis that the 1540 Committee should work with States to understand their needs and develop tailored approaches and assistance rather than prescriptive approaches.

South African remains committed to the work of the 1540 Committee and will continue to work collaboratively with the Committee and other international partners to provide assistance to countries that request it.

We look forward the Peer-to-Peer Assistance Exercise, to be held in collaboration with the Government of Botswana in South Africa from 4 to 6 November 2025 as well as the African Regional Workshop in South Africa, on 2 and 3 December 2025 under the theme "Elaborating strategic trade management systems of dual-use items in Africa – Incentives, challenges and solutions".

The Workshop will offer a platform for government officials to exchange views on the incentives and challenges, as well as the solutions implemented to establish legal and institutional foundations of their strategic trade management systems of dual-use goods and technologies, including within the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

I thank you.