



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

***Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), New York, 29-30 October 2025***

***UNODC statement***

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

Your Excellency Ambassador Eloy Alfaro de Alba,

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-standing and fruitful cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. Our collaboration takes various forms. For instance:

- 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 on preventing and countering CBRN terrorism, and vice versa (recently, representatives of the 1540 Group of Experts shared their expertise and insights with the 2024 and 2025 cohorts of UNODC's International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) Universalization Youth Academy, and UNODC will continue to contribute to the 1540 Points of Contacts meetings);
- Our Office offers technical assistance to Member States in the framework of the matchmaking mechanism 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 continued to be involved in efforts 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 milestone 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. We also reaffirm our readiness to assist Member States in becoming party to and effectively implementing these legal instruments.**

As evidence of this collaborative and partnership-based approach to NAPs, I would like to share some successful results of our joint work. As informed at the Open briefing last year, UNODC contributed to the development of the NAP of Ecuador at a series of meetings convened by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Organization of American States' Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/CICTE). One of the recommendations made by UNODC at the meetings was to include in the NAP Ecuador's prompt adherence to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and other international legal instruments against CBRN terrorism to which it is not yet a party. UNODC provided further assistance to Ecuador and conducted a national visit to the country, with the support of

Canada. These joint efforts resulted in Ecuador's adherence to ICSANT this February.

Our Office continues to engage with UNODA and OAS/CICTE to facilitate NAPs process in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Most recently, we contributed to national events for Costa Rica (August) and Panama (September) and provided recommendations for their respective NAPs. Similarly, we provided expertise to UNODA's workshops on the NAPs of Nigeria and Cambodia, respectively, earlier this year.

UNODC and the 1540 Group of Experts coordinate efforts to support Member States through regular informal meetings to exchange information and good practices and update each other on upcoming events and other matters of mutual interest. An inter-entity meeting that is being convened by UNODA this week will further strengthen our collaborative framework for SCR 1540 implementation.

In addition to operative paragraph 2, fulfilment by Member States of their obligations under operative paragraph 3 of the resolution is also supported by some of UNODC's initiatives on border management. For instance, it is worth noting that as an integral element of the Strategic Trade and Export Control training carried out by UNODC's Passenger and Cargo Control Programme, a module dedicated to resolution 1540 is delivered to Control Unit officers at sea, air and land borders, thus increasing awareness on this important resolution. Particularly relevant to the responsibilities of these officers is operative paragraph 3(c) of the resolution. As a result of UNODC's efforts, alone in 2024, PCCP-supported Units across the globe reported the seizure of 56 tonnes of strategic goods, weapons and explosives. Parallel to these efforts, UNODC's Global Maritime Crime Programme delivered specialized training to maritime law enforcement agencies from more than 25 countries on countering radiological and nuclear trafficking at sea—an area relevant to States' commitments under resolution 1540.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For two decades, UNODC has been at the forefront of efforts to promote the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism and assist requesting

Member States with its effective implementation, thus contributing to their fulfilment of some of their obligations under resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

Our office has long-established technical assistance capabilities, including legislative and capacity-building support, as well as a wide range of technical assistance tools and resources. This allows us to provide to Member States a “full-cycle” support in a comprehensive manner: from adherence to effective implementation.

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

Our projects are developed and implemented by incorporating cross-cutting issues, including human rights and gender considerations. UNODC has worked for many years to ensure that national counter-terrorism strategies and measures are fully compliant with human rights standards and founded on the rule of law, as well as to promote women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation and integration of gender perspectives into peace and security fora through its legislative and technical assistance to Member States. In 2014, the Office published its Module on Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism. 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 human rights standards and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda into the regime surrounding the implementation of resolution 1540.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNODC recognizes the key role that resolution 1540 plays in preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors and stands ready to continue to support its implementation within our mandate and in cooperation with UNODA, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

Thank you.