

STATEMENT TO THE PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

15 July 2019, New York

Honourable Members of the PGA Executive Committee,
Secretary-General Cattin,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General of PGA for the invitation to address this Executive Committee Meeting. Let me, at the outset, commend PGA for its role in promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We also thank you for inviting the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts to participate in activities connected to PGA's global campaign to promote implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including recent workshops in Trinidad and Tobago and The Gambia.

One of the key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) is for States to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any such activities, to participate in them as an accomplice or to assist or finance them. The adoption of such appropriate and effective laws is particularly relevant to the mandate of Parliamentarians.

The potential effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation to and by non-State actors, particularly their use for terrorist acts, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences. The reported use of chemical weapons by non-State actors in some parts of the world and the continued prevalence of illicit trafficking and other unauthorised activities involving nuclear, chemical and biological weapons-related materials outside of regulatory control, illustrate that this is not merely a theoretical possibility. In addition, globalisation, rapid advances in science and emerging technologies have brought about increased opportunities for socio-economic development, but have also led to additional risks, including with respect to non-State actor access to technologies that can be used for both legitimate and proliferation purposes.

Given the global nature of these challenges, no State, irrespective of its geographical location or level of development, can argue that it is insulated from such threats and that it consequently has no need to adopt appropriate and effective measures. Effective domestic, border and export controls over nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials are not only a security imperative, but can also establish the necessary trust between States to facilitate and further enhance legitimate trade.

National authorities cannot achieve non-proliferation objectives by acting alone and close cooperation between States, and co-ordination with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations is required, as recognised in UN Security Council resolution 2325 (2016). Effective implementation also requires active engagement between the State and relevant national actors, including industry, academia and professional associations. This is an area where Parliamentarians have an important role to play, particularly in raising awareness

of the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to and by non-State actors and building partnerships with all relevant actors at a national level.

Since its adoption in 2004, significant progress has been made towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States; however, much remains to be done and some States continue to require assistance in the implementation of their obligations. While the Security Council in resolution 2325 (2016) recognises that full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts, it repeats previous Security Council calls upon States that have not yet presented a first report to do so without delay. It is my hope that Members of Parliament of the remaining 11 non-reporting States will encourage their governments to submit the outstanding reports. In addition, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts remain ready to co-operate with PGA and its Members. We also remain ready to facilitate assistance to States, upon request, with their 1540 implementation efforts, which would contribute to achieving our common objective of preventing the catastrophic use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by non-State actors.

Thank you.