

**Opening remarks by Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
at the Training Course for UNSCR 1540 Points of Contact in Africa**

5 - 7 November 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and in my capacity as Chair of the Committee, I would like to welcome all participants in this training course for 1540 National Points of Contact in Africa.

To begin with, let me extend my gratitude to the government of Mozambique for hosting this training course, which is the third one to be held in Africa. Additionally, allow me to thank the Republic of Korea and the United States of America for their financial support through their contributions to the UN Trust Fund, as well as UNODA for their support. I also wish to express appreciation to the various international, regional and subregional organisations who will contribute their expertise to the course.

Resolution 1540 constitutes a vital component of the international non-proliferation architecture, and the main guidance for the international community's efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to and by non-State actors. The resolution imposes binding obligations on all Member States. First, to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery; second, to adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities; and third, to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

In November 2022, the Security Council unanimously approved resolution 2663, which extended the mandate of the Committee for another decade. In that resolution, the Security Council reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 and re-emphasizes the importance for all Member States to implement fully that resolution.

While implementation of the resolution 1540 remains primarily within the responsibility of Member States, cooperation between States, voluntary sharing of experiences, lessons learned and effective practices in this regard may further help in the process of implementation of the resolution and towards our common goal of preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

It is also important to raise the fact that the obligations set up by resolution 1540 does not concern only States that possess Weapons of Mass Destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. The threat posed by non-State actors, including those with terrorist purposes, does not recognize borders. Every single State has an important role to play in this global effort. That is what makes every State's national performance so crucial for achieving the goals set out in resolution 1540.

Based on the outcomes of the 2022 comprehensive review of resolution 1540, I would like to note that further progress has been made towards the full implementation of the resolution. In the United Nations African Region, 38% of possible measures to implement the resolution were recorded in total. It is an increase of around 8% compared to 2016, it is one of the highest increases among the United Nations regional groups. However, full implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task and the 1540 Committee will continue to facilitate such national implementation.

National Points of Contact play different roles in implementing the resolution, as their functions may vary from facilitating the flow of information between the 1540 Committee and national authorities to coordination of national efforts related to the implementation of resolution 1540. I am pleased to note that, to date, 154 Member States have designated Points of Contact, including 42 Member States

from the United Nations African Region, and 5 of them designated their first Points of Contact in the past year.

The aim of this course is to enrich your understanding on the scope and obligations of resolution 1540 and support you to be an effective 1540 National Point of Contact within your own country. The agenda for the event is designed to be interactive and give participants the opportunity to discuss in detail, the various aspects and issues relevant to implementing resolution 1540. I would like to encourage all participants to take advantage of this and to engage actively in the discussions, which will allow all to share their experiences.

I very much hope that this event will help facilitate the process of implementing resolution 1540 at all levels, including through the designation of Points of Contact by those States that have yet to do so. The 1540 Committee looks forward to continuing to work closely with you all.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this important training course.

Thank you for your attention.

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**Closing remarks by Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
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Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address this closing session after three days of this intensive training course for 1540 National Points of Contact in Africa.

I thank your dedication and active engagement in the event and would like to congratulate you all for what you have achieved during these last few days.

As I have stressed in my opening remarks, resolution 1540 has become a vital and integral component of the international non-proliferation architecture. The resolution imposes binding obligations on all Member States, and every State's national performance proves so crucial for achieving the goals set out by the resolution.

While I am pleased to note that most Member States have demonstrated and strengthened their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the full and effective implementation of the resolution remains a long-term task, which will require continuous efforts by States. In the past three days, I have listened carefully to the presentations and your discussions, and tried to talk to as many representatives on the margins of the event as possible. I have learned more about the challenges you are facing when implementing the resolution and the assistance you might need in the process.

Here I wish to encourage Member States in the African region that have not yet submitted their first national reports to do so as soon as possible. I would also encourage States to provide details to the Committee regarding their National Points of Contact and to ensure that the information is always up to date.

I believe that this training course will further contribute towards deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540 and the critical role of Points of Contact in national implementation.

Finally, I thank you for your commitment, dedication and endeavor in fulfilling your international obligations. I would like to reiterate that the 1540 Committee stands ready, together with national, international, regional and subregional partners, to provide assistance to Member States might be needed in implementing the resolution.

Thank you.

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