

**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 the Asia-Pacific Region

25 - 28 June 2024, Beijing, China

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 Points of Contact in the Asia-Pacific Region and thank you for your commitment and interest in this important topic.

At the outset, let me commend the government of China for hosting this important training course. China's willingness to host this training course is particularly appreciated as this is the fourth training course for the 1540 national Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific Region. China was also the one who took the initiative to host the very first training course for the region in Qingdao in 2015. The second PoC training course for Asia-Pacific Region followed in Xi'an in 2017 and the third then in Xiamen in 2019. We are happy that after a break due to Covid pandemic it is now possible to continue with the series of these important training courses.

I also wish to express great appreciation to the various international organisations who will contribute to the course. Additionally, allow me to thank the European Union for their financial contribution and UNODA for their support.

Since its unanimous adoption 20 years ago, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the international non-proliferation architecture, and 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.

Resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all 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 nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

Following the 2022 comprehensive review of resolution 1540, the Security Council unanimously approved resolution 2663, in November 2022, 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 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution.

While implementation of the resolution remains within the responsibility of 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.

In addition, I would like to underline that the regime set up by resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only States that possess Weapons of Mass Destruction-related goods and technology. The threat posed by non-state actors, including those with terrorist purposes does not recognize borders. Every single country and nation have to get involved in this global effort. That is what makes each and every country's national performance so crucial for achieving the goals set out by resolution 1540.

Based on the outcomes of the last comprehensive review, I would like to note that further progress has been made towards the implementation of the resolution. In the Asia-Pacific Region, 53% of possible measures to implement the resolution were recorded in total. It is an increase of around 10% compared to 2016. However, full implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task and the 1540 Committee will continue to facilitate national implementation of resolution 1540.

National Points of Contact play an important role in implementing the resolution, although their functions may vary from communication with the 1540 Committee to internal coordination at national level. I am pleased to note that, to date, [149] Member States have designated Points of Contact, including [36] from the United Nations Asia-Pacific Region.

The aim of this course is to support you to be an effective 1540 Point of Contact within your own country. The agenda for the event underlines that participants will have the opportunity to discuss in details various aspects and issues related to an effective implementation of resolution 1540. I would like to encourage all participants to engage actively in the discussions, which would allow all to share experiences.

It is my hope that this training course 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.

I wish to leave you with the clear message of the importance of Points of Contact to the promotion of full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all UN Member States. 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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Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this closing session after four days of this intensive training course for 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia-Pacific Region.

I am impressed by all of you for your dedication and active engagement in the event and would like to congratulate you all for what you have achieved during this week.

In the past four days, I have listened carefully to your presentations and discussions, and tried to talk to representatives on the margins of the training course where possible. I have learned more about the challenges you are facing when implementing the resolution and the assistance you might need in the process.

It was pointed out several times during the training course, that national Points of Contact are very important for the implementation of resolution 1540, as their role may not be limited to facilitating the flow of information with the Committee, but involve enhancing internal co-ordination among national stakeholders, depending on relevant national norms and practices.

I thank you for your commitment, dedication and endeavor in fulfilling your international obligations. And, 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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