

**Statement by Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca,
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
at a workshop on “Implementing UNSC resolution 1540 (2004):
Developing Export Controls”**

17 - 18 June 2024, San José, Costa Rica

Distinguished participants, ladies, and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to express my appreciation to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States for inviting the 1540 Committee to participate in this workshop, the main goal of which is to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Costa Rica.

Since its adoption 20 years ago, resolution 1540 (2004) has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and represents a key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, and related materials 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.

Considering the focus of this workshop, I would like to highlight that the most recent resolution 2663 of 2022, which reiterates the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution, emphasizes the need for States to take all appropriate national measures in accordance with their

national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law to strengthen export controls.

In this regard, it is important to recognize the unique contribution to export controls made by resolution 1540 itself. Prior to its passage in 2004, there was no internationally mandated mechanism focused on export controls.

Although resolution 1540 does not prescribe which kinds of export control systems States should put in place, paragraph 3 (d) requires States to establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over related materials and further determines the scope of controls. In addition, the resolution calls on States to establish export control lists and undertake industry outreach.

While implementation of the resolution 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.

I would also like to emphasize that the regime set up by resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only States that possess WMD-related goods and technology. The obligations concern all Member States. The threat posed by non-state actors, including those with terrorist purposes does not recognize borders. That is what makes each and every State's national implementation so crucial for achieving the goals established by resolution 1540. Every single country has to get involved in the effort.

I am convinced that this event will contribute to strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540 in Costa Rica.

I wish you a fruitful workshop and thank you for your attention.