

**Opening Statement at Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of the
UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Ecuador**

**by José Javier De La Gasca,
1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations**

(12-13 June 2024, Quito, Ecuador)

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

As Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540 (2004), I am delighted to open this national event that will promote implementation of the resolution. I would like to commend the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE-OAS) for organizing this event, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

As you are aware, resolution 1540 (2004) aims to prevent non-state actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004 was an important and timely measure in international efforts aimed at preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-state actors. The resolution is the first international instrument which deals with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials in an integrated and comprehensive manner. Since its adoption 20 years ago, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture.

It is important to highlight that resolution 1540 (2004) affirms that none of the obligations under this resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. This was reaffirmed in the most recent resolution 2663 adopted on 30 November 2022.

On the other side, every State should also be assured that full implementation of the resolution by States does not hamper international cooperation in trading with materials, equipment and technology destined for peaceful purposes.

I would like to stress that measures to counter proliferation remain within the responsibility of States and ultimately the implementation of resolution 1540 is a national function and responsibility. It is also important to raise the fact that the regime set up by resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only States that possess the relevant WMD-related technology. The obligations concern all States. The threat posed by non-state actors, including those with terrorist purposes, acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction, does not recognize borders. Every single country has 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. Your commitments and their transposition into Ecuador's legislation, norms and practice, in particular, is what could make a genuine difference in this regard.

Ecuador has demonstrated a long-term engagement with the 1540 Committee after its invitation in 2012 in Quito to a technical meeting on the implementation of both resolution 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Verification Research Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Ecuador. More recently in 2022, Ecuador invited the 1540 Committee to participate in National Round Table to Strengthen the Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), organized by the Government of Ecuador and 1540 Committee with the support of UNODA.

This new national event aims to strengthen the knowledge of national key stakeholders regarding the implementation of a National Implementation Action Plan (NAP). It takes place in the follow up of a first preparatory round run through the videoconference on last 14 May. During this course, the 1540 Expert will share with you details on the obligations under the resolution, the status of implementation, as well as the various tools available to support national implementation, including the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism. I am sure that all the programmed activities will be of great relevance to feed the discussions during these days of work.

The presence of so many national stakeholders, all of whom have a role to play in the implementation of resolution 1540, is encouraging. We look forward to their active participation in discussions over the next two days.

Allow me to also acknowledge and warmly welcome the participation by our partners from international and regional organizations who will contribute to the Workshop and are able to offer various forms of assistance and support in the implementation of resolution 1540.

To conclude, let me share with you my satisfaction on Ecuador's commitment and the steps already taken and plan to take towards the full and effective implementation of resolution, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the resolution to prevent non-state actor's proliferation and contributing to international peace and security.

I wish you a fruitful workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

**Closing Statement at Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of the
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Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this closing session. I am impressed by the dedication and active engagement of participants in the workshop and would like to congratulate all of you for what you have achieved during the workshop.

As I have stressed in my opening remarks, there are threats than non-state actors laying their hands on the weapons of mass destruction. Resolution 1540 is intended to ensure that no non-State actors, including those with terrorist intentions, can exploit nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, means of delivery and related materials. The resolution concerns all States and not only those that possess materials and technologies relevant to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Every single Member State has not only the obligation, but I would say the responsibility, to implement the resolution and cooperate among themselves to that end.

I also stressed that every State should also be assured that full implementation of the resolution by States does not hamper international cooperation in trading with materials, equipment and technology destined for peaceful purposes. Positive impact on national economies of import and export controls constitute I think a further incitation for implementing resolution 1540 requirements.

The intention of Ecuador to establish a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan is encouraged by the 1540 Committee as you know. It will make you identify what is strong and what should be strengthened in your national legal system, figure out all national relevant stakeholders, including civil society as industries and academia, consider national priorities, figure out needs in terms of assistance all

along the implementation of the National Implementation Action Plan. It will constitute a road map for activities related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

I would like to warmly thank again CICTE-OAS and UNODA for the organization of the event, the engagement of all national participants and the fruitful support provided by international and regional partners with whom the 1540 Committee will continue to facilitate national implementation of resolution 1540.

And I look forward to continuing working closely with you in this regard.

Thank you.