

**Statement at the Regional Export Control Workshop for Latin American States to support the effective implementation of Export Controls related to UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)**

**by Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca,  
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

**Bogota, Colombia, on 14-15 August 2024**

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and in my capacity as the Chair, I wish to express our gratitude to the Government of Germany and the Government of Colombia for their efforts to organize this workshop, aimed at promoting resolution 1540 implementation by Latin American States, and for inviting the Committee to participate in this event.

This workshop is an opportunity for the 1540 Committee to interact with representatives of [11] Member States from the region committed to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

Since its adoption in 2004, resolution 1540 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, by non-state actors.

Despite progress made, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is a legally binding tool. It imposes binding obligations on all 193 Member States of the United Nations. First of these is 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.

It should be noted that measures to prevent proliferation, including export control provisions, remain 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 Weapons of Mass Destruction-related technology. The obligations concern all States.

The United Nations Security Council decides in operative paragraph 3(d) of the resolution that all States shall establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items. It also recognizes in operative paragraph 6 the utility in

implementing this resolution of effective national control lists and calls upon all Member States, when necessary, to pursue at the earliest opportunity the development of such lists.

In addition operative paragraph 8 (d) urges states to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their export control obligations. Together the resolution's export control system requirement and its recognition that export licensing and industry outreach are key components of any such system provide important guideposts for states to consider when seeking to better control WMD-related materials, data, and know-how.

The threat of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction knows no borders. That is what makes each and every country's national implementation of UNSCR 1540 so crucial to achieving the goals set out by the resolution. Every single country and nation should be involved in this global effort.

While implementation of the resolution remains within the responsibility of States, cooperation between States, voluntary sharing of experiences, lessons learnt 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.

The most recent resolution 2663 of 2022 reiterates the Council's decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and re-emphasizes 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 operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1540 (2004), the UN Security Council recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the resolution and invites States to offer such assistance in response to requests. The 1540 Committee itself stands ready, upon States' request, to provide technical expertise in drafting their reports to the Committee, preparing assistance requests, elaborating voluntary national implementation action plans, and conducting national events. The Committee also facilitates assistance by matching assistance requests with offers from States or international, regional or subregional organisations.

The Security Council continues to encourage States to contribute funds, on a voluntary basis, to finance projects and activities, including through the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, to assist States in implementing their obligations under resolution 1540.

During this workshop, the participants will discuss 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 do not have any doubt that all the programmed activities will be of great importance and will contribute to the discussions during these two days.

I'm confident this workshop will contribute towards deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540 as well as ways and means to strengthen national implementation in Latin American States.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this event.

Thank you.

**Closing remarks at the Regional Export Control Workshop for Latin American States to support the effective implementation of Export Controls related to UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)**

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Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address the closing session after two days of this Workshop for Latin American States to support the effective implementation of Export Controls related to UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004).

As I stressed in my opening remarks, resolution 1540 does not concern only States that possess WMD-related goods and technology. The obligations concern all States. The threat posed by non-State actors, including those with terrorist intentions, does not recognize borders. Every State should take part in this global action. That is what makes each State's national performance so crucial for achieving the goals set out by resolution 1540. Your commitments and their implementation into national legislation, norms and practice, in particular, is what could make a significant difference in this regard.

It was pointed out several times during the Workshop that export controls measures preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are very important for the implementation of resolution 1540. Internal coordination between State national stakeholders is critical to progress along this path.

I am confident that the Workshop has contributed to strengthening national coordination capacity, as well as providing an opportunity for States to share regional experiences and approaches.

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 partners, to provide assistance to Member States that might be needed in implementing the resolution.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank again to the Government of Germany and the Government of Colombia for the organization of the event.

Thank you.

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