

**Statement at the side event entitled “Strengthening UNSCR 1540 Implementation: The Role of the Organization of American States”, organized by OAS/CICTE on the margins of the 1540 Committee Open Briefing**

**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,

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 gratitude to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) for its efforts in organizing this side event on the margins of the Open briefing, aimed at highlighting its important work in helping to strengthen resolution 1540 implementation in Latin American and Caribbean States, and for inviting the 1540 Committee to participate in this event.

This is an excellent opportunity to stress the importance of the fact that resolution 1540 should be implemented by all States and absolutely no country should be left behind, regardless of its region. The Committee stands ready to provide necessary assistance to all States at their request and also notes the role of regional organizations such as OAS in facilitating national implementation of this legally binding UN Security Council resolution aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

In this regard, the 1540 Committee very much appreciates and recognizes the positive outcomes of effective peer-reviews and bilateral cooperation meetings organized by OAS/CICTE aimed at supporting national implementation of resolution 1540. Among other key points, I would also like to emphasize the importance of the OAS/CICTE work in helping to strengthen export control and biosecurity measures taken by Latin American and Caribbean States in implementing resolution 1540.

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.

However, despite progress made, as shown during the last Comprehensive review in 2022, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 remains a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

Therefore, I’m confident that this side event will highlight the critical role of regional organizations, including the dedicated efforts by OAS/CICTE in strengthening national implementation of measures related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which represents a notable example for other international, regional and subregional organizations to consider.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this event. Thank you.