



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Open Briefing for Member States and International, Regional, and
Subregional Organizations by the Security Council Committee Established
Pursuant to Resolution 1540**

Wednesday, 9 October 2024, 10:00 AM, ECOSOC Chamber

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High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As delivered



New York
9 October 2024

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you at the opening session of the first open briefing for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). This occasion is particularly meaningful as this year marks 20 years since the adoption of Resolution 1540 – a landmark in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to and by non-state actors.

In today's rapidly evolving global environment, we face a complex array of interconnected threats and risks, challenging our multilateral system to keep pace. As the global threat landscape continues to shift, it becomes increasingly critical to uphold international norms through effective measures that can address these emerging threats to international security.

This is where UN Security Council Resolution 1540, now entering its third decade, proves its enduring relevance. It serves as a vital global instrument aimed at tackling a wide range of new challenges, including threats posed by malicious non-State actors – such as criminals and terrorists - who may seek to acquire and use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

The use or threat of use by non-State actors of these kind of weapons would have far reaching and incalculable consequences that extend beyond national borders. No State is immune to these risks.

However, addressing these risks does not mean curbing economic, social and scientific progress. The peaceful use of chemical, biological, and nuclear materials and technologies remain crucial to the daily lives of millions around the world. These materials and technologies advance food security, enhance health care, power industries, provide sustainable access to energy, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540, States can safeguard access to sensitive materials and technologies, ensuring that they are not diverted for harmful purposes while continuing to support their peaceful application in development initiatives.

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To support these efforts, the United Nations, through its Office for Disarmament Affairs, works with Member States, international organizations, and civil society towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the strict control of conventional weapons. Central to ODA's mandate is strengthening adherence to global norms by supporting the implementation of multilateral instruments related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control.

There are, of course, challenges to the implementation of these instruments, and they are different in every region. That is why we strive to design and deliver

context-specific implementation support projects. By doing so, our objective is to enhance regional and sub-regional security while also ensuring that regional and global efforts complement and reinforce each other.

To support implementation efforts, ODA assists States, upon their request, by providing both organizational and financial support. This support enables the convening of platforms and conducting of activities made possible through voluntary contributions from Member States to the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. These activities are implemented in close cooperation with the Committee and its Group of Experts and include tailored national workshops to develop national actions plans, raise awareness and draft reports.

Additionally, ODA continues to support regional implementation activities through its regional centers in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Asia and the Pacific. In response to growing demand for assistance from Member States, ODA further strengthened its capacity by establishing regional coordinators in Africa and Asia dedicated to supporting 1540 implementation at the subregional and national levels.

Cooperation with international, regional, and subregional organizations is another pivotal aspect of our approach. ODA collaborates with regional partners to enhance ownership and develop tailored approaches for implementing non-proliferation measures related to resolution 1540. In addition to supporting national efforts, ODA conducts outreach to a wider audience, including parliamentarians, civil society, academia, and the private sector, all of whom are

critical stakeholders in the integrated and effective implementation of resolution 1540.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of resolution 1540, my Office will host a side event today to showcase the ways in which ODA contributes to 1540 implementation, as well as the type of support available to your countries. You are warmly invited to attend.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

In closing, I strongly encourage your active engagement in this open briefing. Please share your effective practices, lessons learned, and offer practical solutions to the complex collective challenges we face as an international community. **The long-term task of universal and effective implementation of resolution 1540 demands inclusive dialogue and adaptive efforts.** We cannot afford to be complacent in the face of dynamic threats. So, I urge this platform to be resolute and forward-thinking.

I thank you very much for your attention and wish you a fruitful event.