

**OPEN CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)**

UNODC statement

Your Excellency Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez,

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

UNODC is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote the universalization and effective implementation of nineteen international legal instruments against terrorism. Seven of these instruments deal – to differing degrees – with the prevention and suppression of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological terrorism.

First of all, allow me to underline the synergies between United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and these seven instruments. In particular, implementing their criminalization provisions is one step that States may take towards fulfilling their obligations under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540. These obligations include, for example, the adoption and enforcement of “appropriate effective laws” prohibiting non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially for terrorist purposes.

I am delighted to emphasize that, given these synergies, UNODC has a long history of cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. For example:

- UNODC has invited the 1540 Committee to contribute to many of its global, regional and national outreach activities against CBRN terrorism at the global, and viceversa;
- UNODC participated in several informal meetings with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations on the

implementation of resolution 1540 and successor resolutions, focusing on challenges and effective practices;

- Our Office offered technical assistance to several UN Member States in the framework of matchmaking facilitated by the Committee;
- Experts from the 1540 Committee contributed to the development of UNODC's Module on the International Legal Framework against CBRN Terrorism, which is available in all UN official languages and includes a section on the resolution.
- Committee experts also provided expertise in UNODC's online awareness-raising event on the international legal framework against biological terrorism, as well as in a series of webinars hosted by UNODC on countering CBRN terrorism. The latter addressed – among others – the link between resolution 1540 and some of the key international legal instruments on nuclear security;
- Upon the request of the Chair of the Committee in 2020, UNODC provided written input to the second Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540;

UNODC also contributed to meetings related to “1540” voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs). We are very pleased to see that many of these NAPs include a part on adherence and full implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), which UNODC is ready to continue to support. **We recommend, and stand ready to uphold, the inclusion of all aforementioned seven international legal instruments against CBRN terrorism in all future NAPs as appropriate.**

Most recently, UNODC was honoured to contribute to the review of the NAP of Botswana, organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs last February. And we will continue to provide assistance in that regard.

UNODC and the 1540 Group of Experts have held regular meetings to update each other on upcoming events and other matters of mutual interest, keeping a common calendar with relevant activities. Such close cooperation clearly demonstrates that leveraging each other's expertise and joining forces in the pursuit of a common goal help maximize efforts and fast-track the achievement of results in the benefit of Member States. **I would like to express our keen interest and recommendation to continue these meetings.**

As an integral element of the Strategic Trade and Export Control training carried out under the UNODC-World Customs Organization Container Control

Programme, a module dedicated to resolution 1540 is delivered to Port Control Unit and Air Cargo Control Unit officers, thus increasing awareness on this important resolution. Particularly relevant to the responsibilities of these officers is operative paragraph 3(c) of the resolution. While on previous occasions experiences and information were shared between UNODC Container Control Programme and the 1540 Committee through regular exchange of information meetings, **the Programme and its supported units would greatly benefit in the future from the sharing of ad hoc information as soon as identified.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNODC has been relentlessly promoting the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism and assisting requesting Member States with their implementation, thus contributing to the effective implementation of resolution 1540. Our activities are wide-ranging and include, among others:

- Raising awareness on the importance of adhering to and fully implementing the instruments;
- Promoting the understanding of key obligations arising from them, with particular focus on strong criminalization provisions to deter the commission of, and successfully prosecute and adjudicate, illicit acts through case studies and mock trials;
- Sharing potential models, good practices and lessons learned from countries that have implemented them;
- Assisting national policy-makers and legislators in drafting and/or reviewing national legislation;
- Training criminal-justice and law-enforcement officials on the effective implementation of these instruments (in particular with reference to investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorist related cases);
- Enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters related to CBRN terrorism; and
- Developing and disseminating training tools.

These activities have yielded concrete results and contributed significantly to raising awareness on the importance of adhering to, and effectively implementing, the international legal instruments against CBRN terrorism.

Our work in this field is currently carried out under the framework of complementary projects, which reinforce each other. The projects explicitly

recognize the synergies between resolution 1540 and the legal instruments they aim to promote.

One of the projects promotes the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). It is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with UNOCT. For example, under this project, UNODC launched a website entirely dedicated to ICSANT, which is available in all six official languages of the United Nations and serves as a repository of all relevant information and existing resources on this international legal instrument, including a newly developed training manual on ICSANT-relevant fictional case studies.

The ICSANT website also contains more than 40 examples of national legislation implementing the criminalization requirements of ICSANT. They may be helpful for States when fulfilling some of their obligations under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540.

Another project, funded by Canada, supports the universalization and effective implementation of international legal frameworks related to nuclear security, including ICSANT, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment. One of the tools developed under this project is an eLearning Module on the International Legal Framework against CBRN Terrorism that has been successfully completed by over 2,300 practitioners from 121 Member States . It contains a section on resolution 1540 and is available in all UN official languages.

Also supported by Canada, UNODC is assisting several countries in East and Southern Africa, as well as in South Asia and Latin America, to develop legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks to address threats posed by terrorism and proliferation of WMD and meet important international mandates. A core component of this assistance also involves enhancing capacity in identifying strategic commodities, increasing national awareness regarding proliferation-sensitive items, strengthening strategic trade controls and border security, and promoting South-South cooperation.

UNODC fully supports the integration of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda into the regime surrounding the implementation of Resolution 1540. UNODC has worked for many years to promote women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and integration of gender perspectives into peace and security issues through its legislative and technical assistance to Member States.

In 2019, we launched the first of its kind “Training Manual on Gender Dimensions in the Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism”, followed by several manuals tailored to national contexts. Utilizing these manuals, UNODC has been working with Member States to raise awareness and respond to the different ways in which men and women can be affected by and involved in terrorism and can be differently impacted by counter-terrorism and criminal justice measures. Through these efforts we aim to ensure women’s rights and to give a voice to women in efforts to prevent terrorism. UNODC stands ready to share its lessons learned, good practices and experiences with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Modalities Paper prepared by the 1540 Committee specifies that the Comprehensive Review we are discussing should be both retrospective and forward-looking. We at UNODC recognize the key role that resolution 1540 has been playing in preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, since its adoption. Delighted to acknowledge the already excellent joint work with relevant stakeholders, we are ready to continue and enhance cooperation and information-sharing, within UNODC’s mandate, in pursuit of the common goal of facilitating support and assistance for the effective implementation of resolution 1540 and the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism.

Thank you.