

**Security Council Open Debate**  
**The global effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors**  
**Statement by the President**  
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Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen

I am grateful to have the opportunity, as President of the Security Council, to lead this open debate on the global effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

All States have the responsibility to implement effectively the Security Council's resolution 1540 that was adopted unanimously on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004. This resolution should be at the heart of the discussion today. As you all know the main purpose of the resolution is to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, along with their delivery systems and related materials for their development and manufacture, from falling into the hands of non-State actors, including terrorists. I should stress that the resolution is unique in this regard as it is the only legally binding instrument dealing with preventing the proliferation of all three types of weapons of mass destruction.

During the nearly thirteen years since its adoption, resolution 1540 (2004) has become one of the key components of the international regime to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery.

You should be aware that the range of legislation and enforcement provisions required is broad. However, as a background to this debate, allow me to remind you that it includes prohibitions on non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. These seven prohibitions must also cover anyone acting as an accomplice to assist in any way, including by financing such activities. Further, domestic controls are required on related materials including measures in the areas of accounting, securing, physical protection, border and law enforcement, and export controls.

Substantial efforts have already been made by many States to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, while the responsibility for implementation lies with individual States, such efforts can benefit from collaboration, whether bilaterally or collectively, on a regional basis. This is the key to successful implementation. As stated in the concept note for this meeting, Resolution 1540 (2004) is a platform for cooperation to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. Without cooperation it would be impossible to address the issue at a global level. It would be counterproductive to undermine the cooperative spirit, which is already evident in the way

this resolution is being implemented by moving in direction of a stricter mechanism for State Members.

The Security Council called upon States to take into account (in operative paragraph 7 of the resolution 2325 (2016)) of the “evolving nature of the of the risks of proliferation including the use by non-State actors of rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce for proliferation purposes” and requested the 1540 Committee “to take note in its work, where relevant, of these developments” in the course of its work (operative paragraph 8 of the resolution 2325 (2016)). Accordingly the Council called upon States that have the ultimate responsibility for the obligations, to take account these developments in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In the 13 years since the adoption of resolution 1540 the developments I referred to have had a major impact on how cross border movements and trade are conducted. While these are positive developments bringing humanitarian and economic benefits, they present challenges to the effective implementation of the obligations required by resolution 1540 (2004). Keeping these and other developments, under review in relation to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors requires constant vigilance and effective international collaboration. I will be very interested to hear of the experience and views of Member States in this regard.

With regard to resolution 2325 (2016), which imparted important momentum to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to draw attention to operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325. It calls for full implementation of the obligations under resolution 1540, as a result of the 1540 Committee’s 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of the resolution, it particularly noted “the need for more attention on: enforcement measures, measures relating to chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials;” and,, “national export and transshipment controls”. It will be interesting hear how Member States are approaching these aspects of the resolution. A perspective from the international organisations represented here would also be most welcome. The Council very much appreciates the participation of these representatives as key partners in our joint endeavours.

I have highlighted just a few points of importance to our discussion – but, in the interest of brevity, not all of those related to the obligations on States. I look forward to hearing more from all the participants in this meeting.

I am grateful for your attention.

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