



**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 (2004)**

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As delivered



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Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you at the commencement of this open briefing for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). This open briefing is critical as it aims to provide an update on the 1540 Committee's activities and to offer an opportunity for Member States, international and regional and subregional organizations to share their experiences on the effective implementation of resolution 1540, which remains a key pillar of international non-proliferation architecture. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the 1540 Committee members, in particular the Committee Chair, Ambassador Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Permanent Representative of Panama, for tirelessly working to make this important meeting happen.

In 2004, the Security Council unanimously adopted this resolution to address the growing concern over the risk of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons to and by non-State actors. Two decades have passed since then, and the risk has not ceased to be relevant.

In today's rapidly evolving global environment, the international community faces a complex array of interconnected threats, challenges and risks which are relevant to resolution 1540. Non-State actors are becoming increasingly powerful and equipped with more advanced weapons, drones, and ballistic missiles. There has been documented use by non-State actors of chemical weapons. At the same time, rapid advances in science and technology have the potential to lower the threshold for non-State actors to acquire, develop, or deploy weapons of mass destruction with greater efficiency, stealth, and impact.

The sobering reality remains the same over the past twenty years: acquisition or use by non-State actors of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons would have far reaching and incalculable consequences. This is where UN Security Council Resolution 1540 proves its enduring and unique relevance.

Resolution 1540 serves as a vital prevention tool to address a wide range of new and traditional challenges related to the proliferation threats posed by malicious non-State actors. It is an essential pillar in the global WMD disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Its fundamental objective was reaffirmed in the Pact for the Future as our shared agenda.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Consistent with its various mandates, the United Nations 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, including resolution 1540.

For instance, in close collaboration with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, since 2011, ODA has assisted 23 States in developing their National Action Plans and delivered 10 Points of Contact trainings globally. We also convened 17 outreach sessions for industry and academia, and launched an online training course on the resolution, which is available in all six U.N. languages and currently being updated.

Additionally, as part of the efforts to support regional implementation and cooperation, ODA established two 1540 Regional coordinators in Africa and Asia.

ODA is determined to continue this work and engagement with various stakeholders - including Member States, regional and sub-regional organisations, industry and academia - to help enhance the full implementation of the resolution. At the same time, we can't overstate how grateful we are for the States that have made valuable contributions to the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. With their valuable support, we have provided much assistance for States, whether it's national, regional, or global. We also encourage all States to join this effort by contributing to the Trust Fund, which will allow ODA to carry on its support activities for the important work of the 1540 Committee in a sustainable manner.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

In closing, I strongly encourage your active engagement in this open briefing. Please share your effective practices and lessons learned and offer practical solutions to the complex collective challenges we face as an international community. **The long-term task of full implementation of resolution 1540 demands inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and adaptive efforts.** We cannot afford to be complacent in the face of dynamic and emerging threats. Let us ensure that the resolution 1540, as an important pillar of international non-proliferation architecture, will continue to contribute meaningfully to peace, security and prosperity through our joint efforts.

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