



**United Nations Office  
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Opening Remarks at the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540  
(2004) Point of Contact Training for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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As delivered



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H.E. Mr. Carlos Hoyos, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama,

H.E. Mr. Eloy Alfaro de Alba, 1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations,

Mme Petra Letavayová, Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Delegation in Panama,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen, and dear friends,

It is a privilege to open this Training Course for Points of Contact under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 for the Latin American and Caribbean region. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Panama for its warm hospitality, dedicated efforts and steadfast partnership in making this training possible. Thank you very much.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the 1540 Committee, and in particular its Chair, Ambassador de Alba, for their leadership, dedication and support in bringing this training to fruition. Thank you for bringing us here today. Your tireless efforts are essential to ensuring that national Points of Contact have the guidance, knowledge and connections needed to advance the objectives of resolution 1540.

Finally, I want to thank the European Union for its generous political and financial support and continued collaboration.

To the participants from across the region - national Points of Contact, as well as representatives from regional and international organizations and partner entities - I extend a warm welcome.

This training is both timely and significant. It marks important progress since the first 1540 Points of Contact training for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 in Chile, and the dedicated training for CARICOM States in 2019. At a time when the global security landscape is shifting rapidly, and the threats posed by proliferation are evolving in both character and complexity, it is vital that the region's 1540 Points of Contact meet again.

Technological advances - in areas such as dual-use manufacturing, biotechnology, digital trade, global finance - have opened new opportunities for economic development. However, they have also lowered barriers for non-State actors seeking access to strategic goods, materials or expertise. Coupled with rising geopolitical tensions and shifting alliances, the norms underpinning global non-proliferation efforts are increasingly under strain. In these circumstances, the risk that states or non-State actors might seek to acquire or divert sensitive nuclear, chemical or biological materials cannot be ignored.

Against this backdrop, Security Council resolution 1540 remains a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation architecture. It embodies the collective determination of Member States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. More than a legal or technical instrument, it is a cooperative framework, anchored in shared responsibility to safeguard regional and global security.

But commitment to a global norm alone is not enough. Implementation matters. That is why your role as national Points of Contact is so central. You are the linchpin connecting national authorities, regional partners, and the international community.

You carry the responsibility of ensuring that legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks are in place at the national level. You help facilitate inter-agency coordination, oversee export controls and border security, conduct proliferation risk assessments, and, when needed, secure access to international assistance or cooperation. The network you represent across Latin America and the Caribbean is a critical asset - a platform for cooperation, exchange of experience and mutual support.

We recognize that many States face real constraints: limited resources, competing priorities, and budgetary pressures. But it is precisely in such an environment that pooling resources, building partnerships and leveraging international support become all the more important. As I have emphasized in other fora, disarmament and non-proliferation are not luxuries - they are essential investments in peace, stability and sustainable development.

Over the coming days, this training will provide a valuable opportunity to deepen your understanding of the requirements under resolution 1540, to exchange good practices and to discuss concrete and evolving challenges - from emerging technologies to shifting trafficking patterns to regulatory and legal measures. It is also a chance to forge professional and institutional connections among practitioners across the region - connections that will form the backbone of a robust 1540 implementation network.

At its core, this is far more than a technical exercise. It is a collective political commitment to uphold the norm against proliferation.

You will not be alone in fulfilling these obligations. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to continue supporting you - through its support on technical assistance, capacity-building, information sharing and cooperation programs tailored to national and regional priorities.

We remain committed to ensuring that the tools, knowledge and mechanisms offered under the framework of resolution 1540 offers remain accessible, adaptive and responsive to your needs.

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I encourage you to engage fully in the coming days - to share your challenges, to highlight your experiences, to contribute, and to build partnerships that endure beyond this room. This training course is your opportunity to strengthen not only national capacities, but regional solidarity - and through that, global security.

Together, we can strengthen the region's resilience, reinforce the global non-proliferation architecture and help build a world where the misuse of weapons of mass destruction is not only prevented, but rendered inconceivable.

I wish you a productive, enriching, and rewarding training. Thank you for your dedication to this vital work and for your commitment to strengthening global peace and security.

I thank you very much for your attention.

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