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Support Unit

1540er

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Welcome to the fourth edition of 1540er published by the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) Support Unit of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). This periodical keeps you up to date on key developments in the implementation of Resolution 1540 and UNODA's support efforts. This issue continues our tradition of spotlighting the people at the heart of this work: the 1540ers – the national implementers whose experiences and lessons shape the resolution's impact on the ground.



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Annual briefing on the work of the 1540 Committee to the Security Council



Credit: United States Mission to the United Nations

The Security Council held its annual mandated briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004) on 16 March 2026. Pending the appointment of the chairs of subsidiary bodies for 2026, the United States, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of March, delivered the briefing. It covered the Committee's activities since August 2025, including its participation in 26 outreach events. A key milestone was the publication of the Committee's first voluntary technical reference guide on national export controls, developed pursuant to

Resolution 2663 (2022). It also highlighted the second open briefing held last October and the Points of Contact training held in Panama in December. To date, 157 Member States had designated National Points of Contact. The briefing also reported that preparations were underway for the upcoming Comprehensive Review of the implementation of Resolution 1540 in 2027, with the process of updating the national implementation matrices having commenced. Member States were invited to submit updated information by the end of May 2026.

All Council members underscored the continuing relevance of resolution 1540 as a central pillar of the international non-proliferation architecture amidst increasing geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change and evolving proliferation pathways. Many members emphasized the importance of synergies amongst the relevant international legal instruments and called for full compliance with existing obligations. Several Council members highlighted the Committee's role in supporting states to strengthen implementation and address gaps, while noting that there were persistent challenges such as uneven capacities and limited access to technical assistance, particularly in developing countries. They emphasized that effective implementation required enhanced international cooperation and targeted assistance, although the primary responsibility remained with national governments.

Many Council members stressed the importance of the preparations for the 2027 Comprehensive Review, along with ensuring that the Committee's support structure is fully resourced, particularly through the timely appointment of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and the filling of vacancies in the Group of Experts, which were seen as essential to ensuring the Committee's effectiveness.



Credit: UN WebTV

The meeting is available to watch on [UN WebTV](https://www.un.org/webtv).

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Asian Export Control Seminar



Opening remarks by Dr. NAKAMURA Kimitake,
Ambassador, Director-General for
Disarmament, Non-proliferation and
Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The **32nd Asian Export Control Seminar (AECS)** was held in **Tokyo, Japan** from **3 to 5 February 2026**. The event pursued fostering a common recognition for the establishment and enhancement of security export control systems across Asia, through information exchanges on common practical issues, regulatory updates and best practices from other countries. The UNODA 1540 Support Unit's Regional Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Region, Ms. Amanda Cowl participated in the event and provided participants with an overview of the relevant obligations under Resolution 1540.



Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The seminar brought together government officials from 29 countries, with 13 from the region and another 16 from beyond, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations. Participants took stock of the significant progress achieved across the region, while also reflecting on the broader shifts reshaping the global export control landscape. Panel discussions covered a range of critical topics, including updates to export control regulations, illicit procurement by countries of concern, intangible technology transfers, licensing procedures, international export control regimes, and enforcement and compliance measures.

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Supporting Capacity Building in the Asia-Pacific Region

The **Government of India**, in partnership with **UNODA**, delivered the **second iteration of the annual Capacity Building Programme on the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and Strategic Trade Controls for Asia-Pacific and African countries** at the **National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics** in **Palasamudram, India** from **10–13 February 2026**. The Programme was organized under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) framework. The event brought together over 20 officials from nine countries: Brunei Darussalam, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Viet Nam.



*Shri Surjit Bhujbal Special, Secretary to Government of India & Member (Customs) virtually addressed the meeting
Credit: [@cbic_india](#)*

Speakers represented a diverse range of Indian government bodies, including the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Department of Biotechnology, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, and the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as representatives from Indian industry. Together, they shared their implementation experiences and best practices on relevant aspects of Resolution 1540 and Strategic Trade Controls.



*Meeting participants
Credit: [@cbic_india](#)*

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Cooperation Meeting for Implementers of Resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean

The meeting was held in **Washington D.C.** on **18 and 19 of February 2026**. It was organized by the **Organization of American States (OAS) Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)**, served as a platform to deepen partnerships and explore innovative approaches to non-proliferation goals. It emphasized the need for frank exchange regarding implementation obstacles and the importance of minimizing the duplication of efforts through strategic, coordinated planning among implementers and stakeholders of Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council.

Key objectives and outcomes of the 2026 meeting included:

- **Information Exchange:** Regional partners and organizations discussed ongoing and planned initiatives regarding weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation.
- **Gap Identification:** Participants mapped existing gaps and pending assistance requests from Latin American and Caribbean Member States to better utilize available resources.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The forum worked to align various collaborative efforts and maximize the collective impact of implementers working in the Americas.



Credit: OAS

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Global Supply Chain Compliance with DHL

On **12 March 2026**, the **UNODA 1540 Support Unit and the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts** met with **Aaron Dunne, Vice President and Head of the Global Trade Law Office, DHL Group**, to learn about DHL Group's approach to global supply chain compliance and its contribution to preventing the illicit movement of sensitive goods relevant to international non-proliferation efforts, including in the context of the implementation of Resolution 1540.

With operations in more than 220 countries and territories, DHL Group highlighted how its global compliance framework helps strengthen supply chain security, including for operations in complex and high-risk environments, jurisdictions subject to sanctions or heightened regulatory scrutiny.

The company operates under centralized corporate policies covering export controls, sanctions compliance and customs regulations – areas directly relevant to the trade-control obligations established under resolution 1540. These policies establish relevant standards across all divisions and are supported by risk assessments, transaction-screening procedures and internal auditing mechanisms designed to detect and mitigate potential risks, including those related to proliferation.

Discussing the operational level, DHL outlined its mandatory screening of shipments, customers and vendors, including checks against United Nations, United States and European Union sanctions lists. The discussion also addressed cooperation with regulatory authorities and the disclosure of potential compliance issues, conducted in accordance with national legal frameworks and data-protection requirements.

The exchange highlighted the important role of private-sector supply chain actors in supporting the objectives of resolution 1540. Through systematic screening, risk-based compliance procedures and cooperation with authorities, global logistics providers can help reduce the risk that commercial supply chains are exploited for proliferation-related activities.



DHL also presented at the Second Workshop on the development of Costa Rica's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) held on 29–30 April 2026 in San José, Costa Rica.

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Strengthening Programme Coordination on Resolution 1540



On **3 March 2026**, the **UNODA 1540 Support Unit** convened an **inter-entity meeting** with relevant UN entities and 1540 regional coordinators to discuss cost-sharing and joint programming for the implementation of Resolution 1540.

The meeting offered a timely opportunity to exchange experiences and identify practical approaches to joint programming and cost-sharing, particularly in the context of an increasingly constrained and competitive funding environment. Participants discussed the importance of aligning project proposals with stakeholder priorities, engaging across multiple levels and demonstrating measurable results to sustain donor support.

The discussion highlighted the role of coordination and strategic alignment in effective resource mobilization. Participants also underscored the value of inter-entity coordination as a platform for information-sharing, forward planning and enhancing the visibility of collaborative efforts.

Sharing practical experiences, participants outlined different models for joint programming, including lead-entity approaches and structured funding arrangements with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Flexible modalities such as in-kind contributions, joint workshops, back-to-back events and the sharing of subject-matter expertise- were identified as effective entry points for collaboration. At the same time, participants noted operational challenges, including differing financial and administrative frameworks and donor budget constraints.

Participants emphasized that regional and thematic approaches can enhance coordination, reduce duplication and increase the visibility of joint initiatives. The discussion further highlighted practical tools to support coordination, including shared planning mechanisms, regular inter-agency exchanges and cross-participation in activities. The meeting underscored the importance of continued collaboration, with participants expressing interest in further joint efforts, including the development of collaborative initiatives, continued mapping of funding gaps.

Furthermore, on 21 May, the UNODA 1540 Support Unit convened an inaugural meeting of UNSCR 1540 Regional Coordinators from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The meeting discussed regional priorities, cross-cutting risks, and explored opportunities for more integrated and resource-efficient delivery of assistance.

Follow-up discussions will be convened by the UNODA 1540 Support Unit, including through a plenary inter-entity meeting at a later stage.

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

ASEAN Law Forum



The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Law Forum on Export Control Legal Frameworks and Cooperation through the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters (ASEAN MLAT)**, held in **Manila, Philippines** from **12 to 13 March 2026**. The UNODA 1540 Support Unit's Regional Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Region, Ms. Amanda Cowl participated in the forum and provided participants with an overview of the relevant obligations under resolution 1540.

Convened by the Philippines in its capacity as current ASEAN Chair, the Forum brought together relevant agencies and central authorities within the ASEAN MLAT to review existing export control legal frameworks across the region and explore ways to strengthen cooperation with a view to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In his keynote speech, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, H.E. Nararya S. Soeprapto underscored that as ASEAN deepens its economic integration and engagement in global supply chains, the need for effective export control measures becomes increasingly evident in sustaining a region of peace, stability and prosperity. He further highlighted that the MLAT provides a valuable platform for ASEAN to “exchange views and experiences with regional and international experts, including on the implementation of Resolution 1540”.

Participants exchanged experiences on export control regimes and explored the practical application of the ASEAN MLAT in addressing export control offences, including the investigation and prosecution of violations involving cross-border transactions and the transfer of strategic or dual-use goods.

The Forum also reflected on the considerable progress made across the region over the past decade. Six of the eleven ASEAN Member States have already enacted national export control legislation, licensing systems have expanded, and regional cooperation and information-sharing have grown. An ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strategic Trade Management is currently under preparation, signaling continued momentum in this area.



Credit: ASEAN

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Japan-Philippines Public-Private Forum on Export Controls

The Governments of **Japan** and the **Philippines** convened a bilateral initiative on **Public-Private Forum on Export Controls** targeting the public-private sectors with a view to engaging in dialogue on export controls and non-proliferation and reinforce the universal implementation of Resolution 1540 held in **Manila, Philippines** on **24 March 2026**.



Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The Forum brought together public and private sector stakeholders to promote dialogue on export controls and non-proliferation, and to reinforce the universal implementation of Resolution 1540. A central theme of the Forum was the challenge posed by emerging technologies — particularly semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. Participants highlighted the need to strike the right balance between enabling technological progress and ensuring adequate regulatory oversight, noting that as these technologies cross borders through both tangible and intangible means, risks to supply chains, including diversion and misuse, are increasing.

A recurring message from officials was that the effectiveness of Strategic Trade Management (STM) can no longer be measured by licensing procedures or national control lists alone. What matters equally is how well these systems are implemented in practice, including how early risks are identified and how thoroughly internal compliance procedures are embedded within institutions, as well as the capacity of STM frameworks to keep pace with the increasingly complex export control landscape facing states across Asia.



Ms. Amanda Cowl, UNODA 1540 Support Unit UNODA 1540 Support Unit's Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, provided an overview of Resolution 1540 — its objectives, content, and role in complementing existing non-proliferation treaties — and outlined UNODA's support activities for promoting its implementation across Asia.

The Government of the Philippines, in its closing remarks, noted that while technological advancement was both beneficial and inevitable, it carried with it a greater responsibility, which is precisely why public-private partnerships were essential to effective export control governance.

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

EU2P2 Coordination Meeting on Export Control

On **24 March 2026**, the **External Coordination Mechanism on Union Assistance Projects in the Field of Export Control** organized under the framework of the **European Union Partner-to-Partner (EU P2P) Export Control Programme** convened a virtual meeting, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders working in the field of export controls, including EU-funded assistance providers, international organizations, governments, and NGOs.



1540 Committee Voluntary Technical Reference Guide – Export Controls

Following opening remarks, participants presented updates on their ongoing activities across different regions. The discussions aimed to map current efforts and identify opportunities for greater coordination, cooperation, and synergies. The UNODA 1540 Support Unit presented its recent work in support of the implementation of Resolution 1540, with a particular focus on export controls. This included capacity-building initiatives, regional and national workshops, an online training course, and the 1540 TechHorizon initiative. Participants were further updated on recent developments from the 1540 Committee, including the adoption of its first voluntary technical reference guide on export controls.

Regional training on preventing illicit chemical transfers



From **24 to 26 March 2026**, **Uganda** hosted a **regional training course on preventing the illicit transfer of chemicals in fragile and conflict-affected settings, specifically for African states party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**.

Organized in partnership with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and National Authority of Uganda and the Uganda Revenue Authority, the course brought together practitioners from across Africa to strengthen operational responses to evolving chemical security risks.

Within this context, Mr. Jiaming Miao, the UN ODA 1540 Support Unit's Regional Coordinator for Africa delivered a presentation

highlighting the synergies between the frameworks for Resolution 1540 and the CWC. While the CWC establishes a comprehensive regime for prohibition and verification, Resolution 1540 complements it by requiring States to adopt and enforce effective national controls to prevent non-State actors from accessing related materials.

Progress Accelerates on Costa Rica's UNSCR 1540 National Action Plan

The **Second Workshop on the development of Costa Rica's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)** was held on **29–30 April 2026 in San José, Costa Rica**. It was organized by the UNODA in collaboration with the 1540 Committee and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE/OAS).



The workshop convened a broad range of national and international stakeholders to advance Costa Rica's efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

The workshop elaborated on priority areas identified by the Government of Costa Rica to advance the development of its NAP. Building on the outcomes of the first workshop spearheaded by the CICTE/OAS in August 2025, participants engaged in focused discussions to translate national priorities into concrete policy and implementation measures for inclusion in the country's NAP.

The workshop saw extensive participation by more than 40 national stakeholders representing nearly 20 ministries and institutions, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, highlighting Costa Rica's strong commitment and sustained efforts to strengthen national capacities and coordination mechanisms for the effective implementation of resolution 1540.

Upon conclusion of the workshop, representatives from DHL Group in Costa Rica delivered presentations on the company's approaches to global supply-chain compliance, which provided practical insights into the role of the private sector in supporting non-proliferation objectives and compliance with international standards.

Progress Accelerates on Costa Rica's UNSCR 1540 National Action Plan (cont.)

In his closing remarks, delivered on his behalf by the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, H.E. Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain and President of the Security Council for the month of April 2026, commended the workshop for providing a valuable platform to identify support and explore practical solutions to assist Costa Rica in achieving the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540.



H.E. Ambassador Eugenia Gutiérrez Ruíz, Deputy Director of Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, underscored the NAP development a nationally led process. In response to remarks by Ms. Xiaohui Wu, Head of the 1540 Support Unit at UNODA, who described Costa Rica as a country that naturally attracts positive energies, Ambassador Gutiérrez affirmed Costa Rica's readiness to bring those positive energies back to the world.

The workshop was generously funded by the Federal Government of Germany. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Daniel Kriener, Ambassador of Germany to Costa Rica, underscored that establishing a comprehensive framework through the NAP was "more important than ever."

The UN House in Costa Rica graciously hosted the workshop. Mr. Pablo Salazar Canelos, UN Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica, highlighted resolution 1540 as a "global public asset."

The workshop exemplified the strong support provided by the international community for Costa Rica's implementation of resolution 1540, fully aligned with the country's national realities and priorities. Guided by a whole-of-government and whole-of-partnership approach, the process highlighted Costa Rica's experience as a model for the effective implementation of resolution 1540, reflecting the positive energies the country brings to the wider international community.

National Multistakeholder Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Workshop in Liberia

From **27 to 30 April 2026**, **Liberia** hosted a **National Multistakeholder Biological Weapons Convention workshop** in **Monrovia**. It was attended by various Liberian government ministries, agencies and institutions. The workshop sought to encourage broad cooperation and engagement on issues related to national implementation of the BWC and included the sharing of experiences, challenges and good practices, as well as the building of networks and new working relationships.

Within this context, Mr. Jiaming Miao, the UNODA 1540 Support Unit's Regional Coordinator for Africa engaged with national interlocutors on the synergies between the frameworks for Resolution 1540 and the BWC. The discussions identified practical entry points for enhanced implementation, including the update of national Points of Contact in line with international reporting requirements, as well as consideration of revising Liberia's National Report last submitted in 2013 to reflect current developments, institutional arrangements, and priority capacity-building needs. Reporting templates and guidance materials were shared with national counterparts, with follow-up technical support envisaged.

The full article on efforts by the UNODA towards the implementation of the BWC can be found [here](#).



Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Erlangen Initiative Expands to Southeastern Europe with First UNSCR 1540 Regional Outreach to Academia Conference

On **12–13 May 2026**, the **German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)**, in **collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**, organized the inaugural **Resolution 1540 Regional Outreach to Academia Conference for Southeastern Europe**, held in **Tirana, Albania**. This was the first such event under the Erlangen Initiative, which engages academia to translate the objectives of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 into practical prevention measures, held in southeastern Europe.

In her opening remarks, Blerina Abrazhda, Deputy Minister of Defence of Albania, acknowledged that export controls remain insufficiently understood in the subregion. Highlighting the rapid pace of innovation and technological advancement, she emphasized that effective implementation of resolution 1540 cannot rely solely on governments and regulatory authorities but requires broader engagement across society.



The conference featured dynamic and forward-looking discussions on the role of academia in export control compliance. Participants underscored the importance of ensuring that the scientific community understands its responsibilities while continuing to advance research and innovation. As one participant noted, “Don’t wait—it’s a continuous process.”

BAFA shared valuable insights into fostering cooperation between regulators and academic institutions. Representatives from several European countries also contributed expertise on regulatory frameworks and shared good practices in export control implementation. Academic representatives from across the region presented their experiences, highlighting both initiatives and challenges related to export control compliance. Discussions included approaches to academic self-regulation and efforts to align research practices with non-proliferation obligations.

Implementation of 1540-related Activities

Erlangen Initiative Expands to Southeastern Europe with First UNSCR 1540 Regional Outreach to Academia Conference (continued)

Participants consistently emphasized that regional cooperation is essential to address interconnected security risks. Recognizing the cross-border nature of emerging threats, they affirmed a shared responsibility to respond collectively. As one participant aptly remarked, “We are all in the same boat, dealing with the same problems.”

The conference concluded with a shared recognition of the need to strengthen awareness of export controls within the academic community. An Albanian proverb—“Knowledge is a wealth that cannot be stolen”—captured the spirit of the event. It reflects a fundamental principle underlying the implementation of resolution 1540: ensuring that scientific progress serves exclusively peaceful purposes and remains beyond the reach of those who would seek to misuse it.



Implementation of 1540-related Activities

UNODA Director Adedeji Ebo met with the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts



On **29 June**, the **Director of UNODA and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Adedeji Ebo**, met with the **Group of Experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)** and was briefed on preparations for the 2027 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

1540 TechHorizon Symposium



On **29 June**, the **UNODA 1540 Support Unit participated virtually** in the **1540 TechHorizon Symposium, organized by the University of Warwick** and attended by a consortium of UK-based scholars, researchers, experts, and early-career researchers. The symposium provided a platform to discuss the implications of emerging and advanced technologies in the context of implementing Security Council resolution 1540. Discussions highlighted how artificial intelligence, remote sensing, autonomous systems, X-as-a-Service models, and intangible technology transfers are reshaping non-proliferation risks and implementation challenges, while emphasizing the value of interdisciplinary collaboration among the technology, policy, and security communities. Contributors to the 1540 TechHorizon publication project also presented their article proposals and received constructive feedback from participants.

Export controls as a key component of nuclear non-proliferation



Credit: BAFA

To mark the **11th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, the **German Federal Foreign Office (AA)** and the **German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)** organised a **side event on the role of export controls in nuclear non-proliferation** and, consequently, in fulfilling international legal obligations under the NPT and UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The event was held on **6 May 2026** at the **German House in New York** in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations. With insightful contributions from high-level guests from Argentina and the Organisation of American States (OAS), as well as more than 40 representatives from various countries and international organisations, a valuable international exchange took place. The attendant speakers emphasised the importance of an ongoing commitment to maintaining the international security architecture,

of which multilateral export control regimes form a key component. The keynote address highlighted the role of export controls in ensuring a balance between nuclear non-proliferation and legitimate trade in nuclear goods between States. The Deputy Ambassador of Argentina, whose country is chairing the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for the fifth time in the group's history, reaffirmed his country's commitment to the NSG and other export control regimes and explained the importance of these regimes in defining transparent and fair trade controls.

UNODA Launches Updated Online Course on UN Security Council Resolution 1540



On **14 May**, **UNODA launched an updated version of its online course on UN Security Council Resolution 1540**. The event was co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN, with opening remarks by Ms. Sarah Telford, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at the UK Mission to the UN in Geneva, and Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Further remarks on the significance of the resolution and the value of the course were delivered by Ambassador Maria Bassols Delgado of Spain to the Conference on Disarmament, Ambassador Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Permanent Representative of Panama, and Mr. Furumoto Tatsuhiko, Director for Non-Proliferation, Science and Nuclear Energy Division at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Xiaohui Wu, Head of ODA's 1540 Support Unit, then presented an overview of the course and its key updates. The formal remarks were followed by an engaging discussion with participants from academia, civil society, and government. Topics raised included the implications of artificial intelligence, the inclusion of youth voices, and how to improve accessibility — particularly for parliamentarians and other government officials.

Background:

First launched in 2019, the course has attracted nearly 2,000 users to date, including government officials, practitioners, academics, and members of the general public. In the years since, the 1540 Committee, the Security Council, and the broader arms control and non-proliferation landscape have all undergone significant developments. Rapid advances in science and technology have further reshaped the proliferation risk environment. In response, ODA undertook an update of the course, made possible through the support of the Government of Spain. The updated course reflects the latest developments in its implementation, and strengthens coverage of science and technology as they relate to the resolution's obligations. The course ranks among the top three most popular courses on ODA's Education Dashboard:

<https://disarmamenteducation.org/#/en/courses/9>

Interview: UK 1540 expert



In this edition, we speak to **Ms. Laura Navalta, Political Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations in New York**. Ms. Navalta serves as the disarmament expert at the Mission, including working on the 1540 Committee-related issues. She has been with the Mission since September 2024 and was previously working with the UN Secretariat. Ms. Navalta shares her experience regarding the process leading to the adoption of the Programme of Work of the 1540 Committee for 2026.

What role did the United Kingdom play in achieving the adoption of the Programme of Work?

What were the key factors that enabled consensus on the Programme of Work?

I would describe the United Kingdom's role as both facilitating and coordinating the process that led to the adoption of the Programme of Work. Several factors were instrumental in enabling consensus. First and foremost, continuity and institutional familiarity with the Committee's working methods played an important role. The United Kingdom has served as Vice-Chair of the Committee since 2011, which has allowed us to maintain a strong understanding of past practice and procedural dynamics. The previous year was particularly challenging, with six revisions of the draft Programme of Work ultimately failing to achieve agreement. These difficulties were compounded by delays in the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council, as well as reliance on contingency arrangements whereby each monthly Council presidency served as Chair of all subsidiary bodies for that month. Despite these obstacles, my team and I were well acquainted with the positions and priorities of Committee members, which proved essential in navigating the process.

In addition, the draft Programme of Work was carefully balanced to reflect the priorities of Council members, alongside those of other key stakeholders, while deliberately avoiding areas that could have led to disagreement. As a result, unlike the previous year, only a single draft was required, and it was adopted with only minor adjustments. Overall, it was the combination of experience, institutional knowledge, and a pragmatic, balanced approach that contributed to the timely and smooth adoption of the Programme of Work of the 1540 Committee for 2026.

What new elements or adjustments were introduced compared with previous Programmes of Work?

We identified the need to reframe the Programme of Work in light of feedback received over previous years. In particular, following the completion of the voluntary technical reference guides and the multi-year outreach documentation in late 2025, the current Programme of Work shifts its focus toward their implementation and roll-out. A further adjustment involved the rescheduling of the open briefing from March to October, aligning it with the First Committee session.

Continued on next page

Interview- UK 1540 expert (cont.)

What new elements or adjustments were introduced compared with previous Programmes of Work? (continued from previous page)

This change is intended to enable disarmament experts already in New York to attend and contribute more meaningfully. Additionally, the Committee agreed to modify the frequency with which findings from period assistance reports are discussed, moving to a six-monthly cycle. This adjustment is reflected in the structure of the new Programme of Work.

What are the key elements identified in the Programme of Work?

The Programme of Work prioritizes three core areas. First, it emphasizes the provision of technical assistance to Member States, including point-of-contact trainings and broader capacity-building initiatives. Second, it seeks to promote the engagement of all Member States in the Committee's activities. Third, it places importance on scheduling events strategically to facilitate participation by Member States and relevant stakeholders, in order to maximize impact.

From the United Kingdom's perspective, inclusion and practical assistance remain central to the Committee's work. Ensuring that Member States are supported in effectively implementing resolution 1540 is a guiding principle throughout the Programme.

How does this Programme prepare the Committee for its upcoming Comprehensive Review in 2027?

The Programme of Work incorporates advice from the Group of Experts to ensure that the Committee is well positioned to carry out the Comprehensive Review, particularly with regard to meeting required timelines. It also reflects administrative realities, including the additional time required for translation as a result of UN staffing reductions and existing vacancies within the Group of Experts.

At the national level, the United Kingdom intends to use the Comprehensive Review as an opportunity to undertake a full refresh of our own national implementation matrix, working collaboratively across multiple government departments to ensure coherence.

Looking ahead, how do you envisage the implementation of the Programme of Work?

The United Kingdom attaches significant importance to the work of the 1540 Committee. We regard outreach, peer-to-peer support, and technical assistance as central pillars of its effectiveness. At the same time, for the Committee to function optimally, it is essential that chairs and vice-chairs are appointed swiftly and that vacancies within the Group of Experts are filled. We also anticipate that the built-in flexibility of the 2026 Programme of Work will allow the Committee to respond to delayed or emerging issues. This may include the use of informal-informal meetings or the addition of agenda items to meetings where necessary, ensuring that the Committee's objectives for the year are met in full.

Partnership Opportunities

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Proliferation Security Awareness and Capacity-Building Project in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)



Credit: GP Chair – France

At the recent **Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction meeting** held in **Paris** from **11 to 13 February** this year, the **1540 Support Unit** presented a concept proposal entitled “Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Proliferation Security Awareness and Capacity-Building Project in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).” The proposal aims to address proliferation risks related to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) posed by non-State actors, particularly those arising from the unique geographic, economic and institutional challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including through the establishment of a structured and coordinated capacity-building approach specifically tailored to the needs and circumstances of SIDS.

Following the presentation in Paris, joint efforts are currently underway among the 1540 regional coordinators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and OAS to further explore opportunities to advance the initiative and identify potential areas for cooperation and support.

Prior to Paris, the Unit introduced two additional proposals related to the implementation of resolution 1540 during the GPWG meeting in Vancouver in November 2025. The first focuses on strengthening support in the Asia-Pacific region through the continued work of the UNODA 1540 Regional Coordinator, aiming to sustain momentum in regional implementation—particularly in export and strategic controls and in raising awareness of emerging proliferation risks including those linked to advances in science and technology. The second proposal concerns the development of an AI-driven export control assistance tool to support national authorities in identifying controlled items, enhancing export control processes, and detecting potential proliferation risks under resolution 1540. The 1540 Support Unit continues to encourage partnership opportunities and contributions in support of these initiatives. Interested member states, organizations or partners are invited to engage further with the 1540 Support Unit regarding potential cooperation, technical collaboration and funding support for the proposed activities. Interested stakeholders may contact us at unoda-1540-unhq@un.org for more information.

Points of Contact updates

The following States submitted their first Points of Contact this quarter:



Haiti

Mr. Christopher Pierre, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations and delegate of the Mission to the Fourth Committee and the Security Council



Bolivia

Primary: Guadalupe Palomeque de la Cruz
Alternate: Gladys Quispe Nina

The following States submitted updates to their Points of Contact this quarter.



Chile

Mr. Andrés Lamolliate, Director Division of International and Human Security
Mr. Carlos Gajardo, Deputy Director Division of International and Human Security
Mr. Rodrigo Matamoros, Mission of Chile to the UN, First Committee Expert



Costa Rica

Ambassador Eugenia Gutiérrez Ruíz, Deputy Director General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Mr. Didier Badilla Ardón, Officer, Department of Disarmament, Terrorism and Organized Crime, Directorate of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Mr. Alvaro Pérez-Bennett Bustamante, Officer, Department of Disarmament, Terrorism and Organized Crime, Directorate of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship



Montenegro

Ms. Jelena Lekovic, First Secretary, Directorate General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Secretary of the National Coordination Body for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction



Argentina

Ms. Jelena Lekovic, First Secretary, Directorate General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Secretary of the National Coordination Body for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Points of Contact updates



Panama

Mrs. Maria Eugenia Pino F., Director of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Armando Guillén, Chief of Staff, Viceministry of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Julissa Monterrey, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations



Albania

Ms. Amanda Vrana

Desk Officer, Department for International Organizations, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



Marshall Islands

Ms. Isabela Silk, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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H.E. Mr. John Silk, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Marshall Islands to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Doreen Debrum, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Marshall Islands to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Teri Elbon, Assistant Secretary of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Kano Balos, Foreign Service Officer (FSO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Terry Keju, Foreign Service Officer (FSO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australia

In New York: Ms. Demi Della-Porta, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

In Capital: Ms. Briana Grame, Assistant Director, Counter Proliferation Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Portugal

In capital: Mr. Henrique Castanheira, Senior Policy Adviser, Directorate-General for Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence

In New York: Mr. Miguel Alegre, Political Officer, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations



Russian Federation

In New York: Mr. Kirill Danshin

Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Points of Contact updates



Qatar

The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of the State of Qatar.
Mr. Talal Abdulaziz AlNaama, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, New York.



Philippines

Mr. Jet C. Olfato, Director, Office of the United Nations and International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Paolo Marco R. Mapula, Second Secretary and First Committee Expert, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York

Announcements



Appointment of Mr. Luiz Carlos de Faria to serve as Coordinator of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts

A Brazilian national and retired Commander Engineer, he brings over 54 years of professional experience spanning the Brazilian Navy, government, and international organizations.

During nearly three decades of active naval service, he held roles including Operations Officer aboard an aircraft carrier, Sub-Project Development Manager, and Section and Division Head within Brazil's Naval Nuclear Program, as well as Export Control

Coordinator for nuclear-related sensitive items at the Ministry of Science and Technology and adviser to the Ministry of External Relations on IAEA, CTBTO, and NSG matters. He served as Secretary of the NSG Chairman during Brazil's Chairmanship and as Deputy-Coordinator for the 2006 NSG Brasilia Plenary.

In the UN system, he served as Head of the Inspectorate Management Branch at the OPCW and as a Nuclear Safeguards Inspector and Safeguards Analyst at the IAEA. He holds degrees in Naval Science, Electronic Engineering, and Mechanical Project Engineering, a Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering, and a PhD in International Relations.

He joined the Group of Experts in June 2024, where he supports the implementation of Resolution 1540 through headquarters activities and outreach events across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The official appointment letter is available as [S/2026/45](#).



New UNODA 1540 Support Unit Regional Coordinator for Africa

Mr. Jiaming Miao joins the UNODA 1540 Support Unit as the Regional Coordinator for Africa. Bringing over 18 years of experience in the UN across headquarters and the field including Geneva, Vienna and New York, Jiaming has served with UNOG, UNODC, OCHA, UNCTAD, DESA, OSESG-GL and UNODA. Most recently serving as Deputy Director of UNREC. In that capacity, he implemented multi-country programmes on disarmament, weapons and ammunition management, counter-terrorism measures and broader arms control initiatives.

Jiaming joined the UN through NCRE/YPP. He graduated from USC and LSE, holding a Ph.D. in Policy, Planning and Development and an MPA. Prior to his UN service, he was an Asia Fellow at Harvard University from 2007 to 2008. In 2019, he was a Visiting Professor at Peking University School of International Relations while on UN Sabbatical Award.



New Editor for the 1540er

Ms. Marya Canham joins the UNODA 1540 Support Unit as the Political Affairs Officer, and amongst her various tasks is being the editor of this publication, as well as the co-chair of the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform.

Marya returns to UNODA after nearly three years with DPPA-SCAD, during which she supported the Security Council's work. In ODA, she worked in the Middle East Unit, where she helped establish the newly mandated WMD-Free Zone conference process.

Marya has wide-ranging experience across the UN system. She coordinated humanitarian assistance with OCHA, including in Darfur, served as Sudan Desk Officer with DPPA-DPO, and developed change management policies and practices for cross-pillar reporting with the UNOCC.

Upcoming Events and Activities

– to be organized / supported by the 1540 Support Unit



1. Regional Export Control Workshop and Erlangen Regional Conference in Panama City, Panama, 14 – 16 July 2026
2. Scoping Workshop on Strengthening National Engagement and Institutional Coordination for the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Banjul, The Gambia, 22–23 July 2026
3. Workshop on the review and development of the voluntary National Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 implementation in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 20–22 July 2026
4. AU–UNODA Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Africa through Biosecurity Governance and Strategic Trade Management, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4–5 August 2026
5. Regional Wiesbaden conference in Sydney, Australia, 24 – 25 September 2026
6. Global Wiesbaden conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, 18 – 19 November 2026

*The events are to be confirmed and this list is not comprehensive. For any inquiries, please feel free to contact the UNODA 1540 Support Unit.