

Statement
on behalf of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)
to the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future
IAEA Headquarters Vienna, Austria, 20 - 24 May 2024

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I wish to express my gratitude to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the opportunity to address this International Conference on Nuclear Security.

At the outset allow me to warmly welcome the close collaboration between the 1540 Committee and the IAEA, which continues, within its mandate, to provide technical support to States in the implementation of relevant provisions under UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Such cooperation extends to the sharing of information and effective practices.

Since its adoption 20 years ago, resolution 1540 (2004) has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and represents a key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, and related materials by non-State actors.

Resolution 1540 aspects specific to nuclear security include requirements that States take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials. International legal instruments for nuclear security are thus very relevant to resolution 1540. States should develop and maintain appropriate and effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport, and to develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures. It is for States to decide what exactly are “appropriate and effective” measures.

Through resolution 1540 (2004), States are also called upon to renew and fulfill their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular, among others, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Additionally, resolution 1540 (2004) calls upon all States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation of proliferation-related multilateral treaties to which they are parties. It is important to recall that resolution 1540 (2004) affirms that none of the obligations under this

resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties, among others, to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This was reaffirmed in the most recent resolution 2663 unanimously adopted on 30 November 2022, which extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years.

Before the adoption of resolution 2663 (2022), a comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was conducted. According to the review, progress has been made towards the implementation of the resolution 1540. Globally, implementation increased by about 6% since 2016, as the previous comprehensive review was conducted, but with differing degrees among the key obligations, weapons categories and regions. In respect of measures related to nuclear weapons, an increase of around 13% was recorded since 2016.

Despite progress made, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remains a long-term task. While implementation is a national responsibility, States cannot achieve the objectives of the resolution by acting alone. The threat of the non-State actor proliferation and illicit trafficking transcends national boundaries and can only be effectively prevented through international cooperation.

I will conclude my remarks by underlining that the long-term goals of resolution 1540 require the use of all available opportunities for international cooperation and sharing of experiences with due regard to the principle of confidentiality.

In this vein, I wish all participants fruitful deliberations and a successful conference.
Thank you.

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