

**Open debate of the Security Council**  
**The global effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by**  
**non-State actors**  
28 June 2017

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**I. Introduction.**

Bolivia will hold a high level open debate of the Security Council on 28 June 2017 on how to reinforce the preventive system to avoid the humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe that could result from the use of a nuclear, chemical and biological weapon by non-State actors, particularly terrorists.

The topic falls under the agenda item “Non-Proliferation”.

The debate will take into account the Security Council resolution 2325 adopted on 15 December 2016, which sets the basis for the pathway ahead to achieve full implementation of the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004).

The meeting will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz.

**II. The risks of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and non-State actors.**

The risk of non-State actors, including terrorists acquiring, developing, manufacturing and using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons remains a serious threat to global peace and security. Terrorists and their supporters have shown the intent and, at least in the case of chemical weapons, some capability to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction and to use them.

The extraordinary and rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce bring important economic and humanitarian benefits. These technologies are becoming easier to employ and are disseminating in legitimate research, development in academia and industry. Putting into place appropriate and effective controls to prevent misuse is a particular challenge for governments so that the rewards arising from these developments are not hindered.

**III. The role of resolution 1540 (2004).**

Resolution 1540 is the overarching legal instrument on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as it is the only legally binding obligation that covers all three types of weapons of mass destruction with a focus on preventing the proliferation of these weapons, as well as their means of delivery and related materials, to non-State actors, including terrorists.

It is important to highlight that the Resolution 1540 (2004) is a platform for cooperation to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to weapons for mass destruction. Without cooperation it would be impossible to address the issue at a global level. It would be counterproductive to turn the cooperative spirit of this resolution into a mechanism of coercion or as a sanctions mechanism.

Although some progress has also been made in relation to accounting, securing and export control measures, it is clear, that for many States there remain significant efforts to be taken to address gaps in these areas. Particularly, it is worth noting that fewer measures have been adopted to secure the production, use, storage and transport of materials related to chemical and biological weapons, as is also the case with regard to proliferation financing.

Since the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors is global, it is important that key players, that is to say States and international organisations, are fully engaged in its prevention. In this regard it is important to encourage the development of an active network of officials continues to develop through the designation and training of 1540 Points of Contact by States. Three regional courses for 1540 Points of Contact have been hosted by member states so far (by Chile, China and the Russian Federation). A fourth such course is due to take place in China in August this year.

While good progress has been made in the adoption of measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, the rate and variability of this progress confirms that accomplishing the objective of full implementation of resolution 1540 is a long-term task that requires continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels. It will also require sustained and intensified support from the Security Council, as well as through direct interaction with States. Continuing support will also be required from other components of the United Nations and relevant international organisations.

With regard to cooperation with international organisations an even closer engagement with the Security Council is necessary to coordinate activities to avoid duplication and to focus on areas in most need for action. As is evident from assistance requests made by States, a number need help in building their capacity to implement their obligations effectively.

While important progress has been made by the Security Council (via the 1540 Committee) in adopting a regional approach to promote action to strengthen its capacity to respond to requests for which dedicated funding support is needed. Visits to States and national roundtables have proved to be the most valuable tool in producing tangible results. Every effort should be made to focus direct interactions with States where they are most needed and on subjects where implementation is generally weaker such as the implementation of the obligations to take and enforce effective measures to establish

domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials (operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540).

#### **IV. Issues for debate.**

The debate aims at a discussion of the practical measures that the Security Council, Member States and international organisations can adopt to prevent non-State actors from acquiring or using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In its paragraph 12 resolution 2325 (2016) particularly notes the need for more attention on “enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls”. Therefore, participants in the open debate are encouraged to contribute practical and action-orientated measures through sharing experience and ideas that connect directly to the individual circumstances of States and takes account of their various circumstances that bear on their effective implementation.

They are also encouraged to inform the Council of new commitments regarding the implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016) including in relation to support for capacity building needed for full implementation. Also, for those with the capacity to do so, what financial and in-kind contributions they have recently made, in intend to make, to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Issues for consideration can include the following:

- Operative Paragraph 7 of resolution 2325 (2016) “Calls upon States to take into account developments on the evolving nature of risk of proliferation and rapid advances in science and technology in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)”. How are Member States taking this aspect into account in their review of their implementation measures?
- In their national capacities, what new or additional measures do Member States intend to adopt for their effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the light of resolution 2325 (2016) in particular its paragraph 12 noted above?
- The announcement of assistance programmes and voluntary financial and in-kind contributions that help promote the global agenda for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- International organisations could also announce measures that they have recently taken, or intend to take, to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to complement their own objectives, and within the scope of their respective mandates.

#### **V. Participation, briefers, procedural aspects.**

The open debate will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Plurinational Republic of Bolivia to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz.

H.E. António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary General, is invited to attend and intervene at the beginning of the debate.

Under Rule 39 it is expected that relevant international organisations will participate in the open debate.

Participants are encouraged to deliver concise but strong and focused statements (no longer than four minutes) during the open debate so that there can be an active dialogue on the global agenda to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, including terrorists.

Longer statements can be sent in advance to the following address: [sc.1540.committee@un.org](mailto:sc.1540.committee@un.org). They will be published on the web page of the Security Council's 1540 Committee together with this note.

In accordance with standard procedure, Member States wishing to inscribe will be able to do so by registering with the Security Council Affairs Division no earlier than three days before the debate.