

FACT SHEET

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is a threat to international peace and security. Proliferation challenges have been addressed by the United Nations in a number of ways including through a process initiated by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 1540 (2004).

Security Council resolution 1540 established a programme of action to prevent non-State actors, in particular terrorists, from proliferating nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Governments all over the world are working hard to implement its requirements.



The Scope of Resolution 1540 (2004)

The Security Council decided that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to this effect. The resolution also requires all States to establish various types of domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their related materials. A Security Council Committee was established pursuant to resolution 1540 to report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution. Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) extended the mandate of the Committee until 25 April 2021.

“Preventing non-State actors from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction is among the most important responsibilities of the international community.” Reviewing United Nations efforts in that regard, the Deputy Secretary-General cautioned that gaps would continue to open in the rapidly evolving global security environment.

Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, statement on the occasion of the adoption of resolution 2325 (2016), 15 December 2016

Activities of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) provides support for activities of the 1540 Committee, focussing particularly on the following key areas:

- Facilitation of national implementation activities including through regionally coordinated approaches;

- Enhancing cooperation with international organizations;
- Building effective partnerships with key stakeholders.

Facilitation of National Implementation Activities including through Regionally Coordinated Approaches

In cooperation with the 1540 Committee and relevant regional and subregional organizations, UNODA promotes and facilitates practical efforts of Member States to fully implement the key requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), including the preparation of voluntary national implementation plans, conduct of 1540 Peer Reviews and identification of effective implementation practices. Regionally coordinated approaches are one of the most efficient means of bolstering national implementation. In order to promote capacity-building, facilitate assistance and raise awareness, UNODA has organized or supported over 40 regional or thematic workshops held in Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Cooperation with International Organizations

The 1540 Committee is tasked to engage with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to share experiences and lessons learned in the areas covered by the resolution. The Office for Disarmament Affairs promotes such cooperation by working together with these organizations to facilitate the exchange of information and identify synergies that can be exploited on issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for the benefit of their respective Member States.

Effective Partnerships with Key Stakeholders

UNODA is committed to building productive and effective cooperation and partnerships with civil society, including industry, academia, and scientific and professional communities in support of the non-proliferation objectives of resolution 1540 (2004). UNODA promotes engagement of the industry which undertakes many practical measures related to the 1540 implementation.



On 15 December 2016, the Security Council, under the Presidency of Spain, unanimously adopted resolution 2325 (2016). In doing so, the Council called on all States to strengthen national non-proliferation efforts in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) - which seeks to keep non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

Also by that text, the Council endorsed a recent comprehensive review of such efforts (document [S/2016/1013](#)). Its findings included an increase in the number of legally binding measures adopted by States with the aim of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, but at the same time noted that weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery continue to constitute a threat to international peace and security.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540>