

**Message from the Chair of the 1540 Committee**

**At the conference on  
“United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) Regional Industry  
Outreach Conference for the Pacific Alliance States and Brazil**

Mexico City, 8-9 June 2017

*Your Excellency,*

*Distinguished participants,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As Chair of the United Nations Security Council’s resolution 1540 Committee I offer congratulations to the Government of Mexico for organising and hosting this important regional industry outreach seminar. On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in this important event. My gratitude also goes to the Government of Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for their support in funding and organizing this conference.

At the outset I would like to warmly welcome the representatives of States and industries present here --from the Pacific Alliance States: Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru -- as well as the representatives from Brazil, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the United States. I also welcome the presence of the representative of the WCO. You have all travelled from far and wide to be in Mexico City to participate in and support this important event. Your presence is a tribute to the significance of the topic of this gathering -- United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

This is the second regional industry outreach conference in the series of the so called “Wiesbaden Process” that is designed to foster a dialogue between governments and industry. The Wiesbaden Process began in 2012 when Germany started this initiative in the city of Wiesbaden which gave the process its name. This forum for dialogue with industry on the implementation of resolution 1540 is very much appreciated by the Committee. Specific regions of the world and specific industry sectors are facing different challenges, and the Wiesbaden Process tries to take these into consideration in order to be able to focus on the particular circumstances of the region and its industry. Engagement by Member States with

their relevant sectors of civil society, including industry, academia and professional associations, is important in raising awareness and improving national implementation.

As Chair of the Committee, and as a Bolivian, I am pleased to see this conference taking place in this region. Resolution 1540 (2004) is a vital element in the global architecture to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to non-State actors, including terrorists. Properly implemented world-wide, it is a major contribution towards preventing a humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe should any of these weapons be used to cause large-scale casualties and suffering. It is clear that such a possibility is not just theoretical.

Flowing from the Committee's 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the previous five years, resolution 2325 was adopted unanimously on 15 December 2016. This resolution reinforced the commitment to implement the obligations of the original 2004 resolution. The high number of co-sponsors of resolution 2325 (2016) is a testament to the importance Member States continue to attribute to resolution 1540 (2004). All the countries present here, and my own country, are among the Member States that co-sponsored resolution 2325 (2016). The Committee takes great encouragement from this global support to make the world a safer place as part of the effort to prevent the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

In its resolution 2325 the Security Council decided (in operative paragraph 12) that the "Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote full implementation". It calls upon States to take into account of developments in the evolving nature of the risk of proliferation and rapid advances in science and technology in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). And while taking a comprehensive approach to promoting the implementation of the obligations, the Council drew on the experience recorded in the Comprehensive Review report by recalling its decision that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls over, *inter alia*, related materials that could contribute to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this context the relationship between governments and industry is salient and forms the basis for your gathering in Mexico City. The Council also noted particularly the need for more attention to establishing national export and transshipment controls, enforcement measures; the control of intangible technology

transfers and, among others things, calls on States to develop, if not yet done, effective national control lists.

Who could know better about the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce than industry itself? Being the producers and sellers of some of these dual use goods that could pose a proliferation threat industry is in the front line by knowing their markets and their customers. Member States and the Committee can learn a lot from industry in order to take account of new trends and their possible risks.

I should stress that the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is the responsibility of States. However, experience in the implementation of operative paragraph 3 c and d (export and border controls) show us that especially in this area collaboration with industry contributes to its success. Industry is an important stakeholder and partner to governments in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as it has to implement the laws which have been adopted by Member States. An effective partnership between States and industry is therefore vital to successful non-proliferation efforts.

Through this meeting it would be a great help to gain an insight into the challenges you are facing in the field of export controls and in the area of implementing legislation and controls in your region.

This Mexico Wiesbaden conference, which brings together representatives of governments, the 1540 Committee and from diverse sectors of industry for direct engagement, provides a good opportunity for such a dialogue.

In this regard, we are fortunate to have so many representatives from different sectors here today. Through discussions over the next two days, we should be able to benefit much from each other, from sharing of experiences and effective practices in implementing the laws and regulations of our respective countries.

The Committee would also be glad to hear your views on what industry expects from governments and the 1540 Committee in facilitating implementation of the resolution.

I am convinced that the outcome of this conference will contribute to further strengthening the prevention of WMD proliferation through more effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

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