

**Statement by the Chair of the 1540 Committee  
To be Delivered by Mr Gennady Lutay,  
at the Open Ended Working Group of States Parties to the  
Chemical Weapons Convention  
10 October 2016**

The Hague, Netherlands

Mr. Chair, Mr. Director-General, Excellences and distinguished representatives,

On behalf of Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi of Spain, the Chair of the 1540 Committee, I wish to thank you for the invitation extended to the 1540 Committee to participate in the Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism, established by the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

At the outset allow me to warmly welcome the closer collaboration between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW with a view toward sharing knowledge, views, and effective practices in support of our common goal of mitigating increasing threats to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of chemical weapons to non-State actors.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) complement and reinforce each other. Through resolution 1540, States are called upon to renew and fulfill their commitment to multilateral cooperation within the CWC framework 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. States have also been called upon to promote the universal adoption and full implementation and, where

necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, including the CWC.

Twelve years after its adoption, resolution 1540 (2004) has become one of the key components of the international regime to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. The aim of the resolution is to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from taking any step that could be a prelude to their use. It does not stand alone in this regard, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the CWC, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and other international instruments, and arrangements all work towards this end.

However, also during the last twelve years, we have witnessed a relentless increase in extreme violence being perpetrated by terrorists, which is a matter of grave concern.

We are all well aware that we are not talking of theoretical acts. The Security Council is seized of the use of chemical weapons in Syria , ISIL has used them in Iraq and authoritative reports make it clear that ISIL has a chemical weapons programme and is developing improvised devices drawing on available technology and materials. We know that if terrorists had the opportunity and capability, they would not shirk from using a weapon of mass destruction. Resolution 1540 is designed to prevent such an outcome. It is more important than ever to achieve its effective implementation.

As resolution 1540 embraces the full range of weapons of mass destruction - nuclear, chemical and biological, as well as their means of delivery and related materials, it is an important complement to the CWC as well as to the work of the OPCW. Therefore, close cooperation between us is essential.

Before we move on, let me briefly outline the key obligations of resolution 1540. It decided, *inter alia*, that all States shall:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding WMD, their means of delivery and related

- materials;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation related activities;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent WMD proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

Distinguished Chair,

I am pleased to inform you that the status of implementation of the resolution is improving. Many States consider effective implementation of the resolution as an important national objective. 176 out of the 193 UN Member States have submitted reports to the 1540 Committee on their implementation measures, and many have submitted more than one. In the course of the current year 30 States, from all regions of the world, provided additional information, conveyed effective practices or provided comments and updates on the Committee's record of their implementation measures - held in the form of matrix for each State.

In 2016, steady progress continued in terms of the number of recorded legally binding measures taken by States. This advance is revealed from the revision of the matrices of all 193 Member States. The development and submission of voluntary national implementation action plans (NAP) has been increasing. In 2016 the number of NAPs increased to 25. Many more countries have been working on the implementation of the resolution according to their national plans.

The active engagement and dialogue of the Committee with States on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) includes visits at their invitation. This direct engagement provides a good opportunity to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with legislators and implementers, review the host country's regulatory and enforcement instruments, and identify effective practices or areas that

may need to be strengthened, including on preventing chemical weapons from falling into the hands of non-State actors, including terrorists.

Assistance provided to States in need is an area of common interest for the OPCW and the 1540 Committee. To assist States in meeting potential challenges in implementing the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council has invited States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations to offer assistance in response to requests from other States lacking necessary capabilities and/or resources. The 1540 Committee itself does not provide assistance but it has a clearinghouse and match making role to facilitate assistance by others for implementation of the resolution and matching assistance requests with offers.

Of importance is that States can benefit in these efforts by the support available from an array of assistance programmes of Member States and international organisations, such as IAEA, OSCE, OPCW, African Union and others. International and regional organisations are providing important political and technical support. Closer cooperation with international organisations is another of the tasks set for the Committee in its Programme of Work. I am glad to note that the Group of Experts have collaborated with the OPCW in a number of activities and now regularly exchange their working calendars of events to seek more possibilities for collaboration. The 1540 Committee is looking to further improve prompt and effective responses to requests for assistance from Member States. I am confident that it would be immensely valuable for discussions to be held between the 1540 Group of Experts and the OPCW staff on this specific aspect.

Work on the 2016 Comprehensive Review began in 2015 with the Modalities and Work Plan being agreed and opportunities being taken for consultations with Member States, international organizations and Member States. The Open Consultations on this matter took place in June 2016, which were attended by the

Deputy Director General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. During these consultations the Committee received many substantive inputs made as part of the Comprehensive Review. The inputs from Member States and the many other participants highlighted ways forward to achieve our shared goal of effective implementation of resolution 1540. The remaining month of 2016 will demand a considerable effort by the Committee and its members to complete the Comprehensive Review and submit its report to the Security Council before December.

As the possibility of use or threat of use of chemical weapons, or chemical weapons-related materials, by terrorists and other non-State actors exists, our common goal also extends to securing such materials. In this regard, governments and non-governmental entities, in particular industry, have a shared interest in ensuring that the life sciences and chemical technologies are used for the common good and in a responsible manner.

Promoting concerted outreach, education and training activities in chemical risk management including such areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004) will serve to strengthen international non-proliferation efforts and enhance capacity-building in States.

Distinguished Chair,

The rapidly changing global, political, scientific and technological environment requires the use of all available opportunities for international cooperation. The CWC States Parties are a significant partner in these efforts. The collaboration established with the 1540 Committee serves to strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and address existing challenges, where appropriate, in a cooperative manner

based on our shared goals and commitment toward a world without chemical weapons.

I wish to thank you for your attention, and I very much look forward to our discussion.