

**Statement on behalf of the Chair of the 1540 Committee during Twenty-First Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States**

**7 October 2021**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540, and in my capacity as Chair of this Committee, I wish to thank the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism for the invitation to address this Twenty-First Regular Session.

At the outset, I thank CICTE for its continued cooperative work, supporting States to implement resolution 1540. During 2021, despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, CICTE has conducted five virtual workshops in Panama and the Dominican Republic, raising awareness about the obligations under resolution 1540 and providing training related to strategic trade controls. CICTE has also been providing legislative and technical assistance to States to draft legislation in accordance with the obligations established by the resolution. Six States from the region were also assisted in drafting their National Action Plans which were later submitted to the Committee.

Furthermore, with its work, CICTE enhances regional cooperation through peer review exercises: during 2017 CICTE contributed to the organisation of a peer review between Chile and Colombia, and in 2019 conducted two other exercises between the Dominican Republic and Panama, and Paraguay and Uruguay.

Excellencies,

Since its adoption in 2004, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture and key instrument in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, by non-State actors, including for terrorist purposes.

It is important to note that the focus of resolution 1540 is on non-proliferation and not terrorism. And while the scope of resolution 1540 differs from the international instruments dealing with terrorism, there is some important overlap with those instruments that contain specific provisions related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

For the purposes of the resolution, a non-State actor is defined as “an individual or entity, not acting under the lawful authority of any State”. The resolution does not identify specific individuals or entities, does not impose sanctions, nor are its provisions directed against any State.

Resolution 1540 imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prohibit non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, finance or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Furthermore, to prevent such

proliferation, it obliges States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls. These include measures to account for and secure “related materials”; physical protection measures; effective border controls and law enforcement measures; and export and trans-shipment controls, including controls over funding and services.

Importantly, the resolution does not alter the rights and responsibilities of States Parties to other non-proliferation instruments, but rather complements the relevant multilateral treaties and conventions and establishes equal obligations on all UN Members, irrespective of their status regarding such treaties.

In its efforts to enhance international peace and security, the 1540 Committee cooperates with, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267, 1989 and 2253 concerning ISIL, Al Qaida, and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373, concerning counter-terrorism. This cooperation includes, as appropriate, information sharing, coordination on visits to States, within their respective mandates, technical assistance, and other issues of relevance to all three committees.

The 1540 Committee is currently conducting a Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 including Open Consultations with UN Member States, international and regional organisations and civil society, as appropriate. Information about dates will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Excellencies,

The full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 remains crucial to address the continued threat posed by non-State actors accessing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery, including for terrorist or proscribed purposes. This threat is not confined to national borders or to some parts of the world and we all have a role to play to address this common threat to our security, including by establishing domestic controls over related materials.

While important progress has been made since 2004 in the implementation of resolution 1540, much remains to be done in the region. CICTE has been, and I am confident it will continue to be, an important partner of the 1540 Committee. We look forward to continuing to work closely with CICTE, in order to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Thank you.