

**VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE 2ND UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540
INDUSTRIAL OUTREACH CONFERENCE FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
(ASIA-PACIFIC WIESBADEN CONFERENCE)**

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this second Industrial Outreach Conference for the Asia-Pacific region. We also wish to acknowledge the support provided for this Conference by the European Union and Germany, as well as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. I would also like to express our appreciation to the representatives of States and industries present here. Your presence at this conference is a tribute to the significance of the topic under discussion, United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

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, but also should be considered as a platform for cooperation to ensure that States have appropriate and effective legislation and enforcement measures, including export control measures, in place. We should not forget that without cooperation it would be impossible to address the issue at a global level. If effectively implemented universally, resolution 1540 (2004) is key to preventing the humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe that would result from the use of these weapons by non-State actors. It is clear that this is not simply a theoretical possibility.

Further, flowing from the outcome of the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) over the previous five years, resolution 2325 (2016) was adopted unanimously on 15 December 2016. This resolution not only reinforces the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), but also, amongst other matters, calls upon States to take into account developments in the evolving nature of the risk of proliferation, and the rapid advances in science and technology, in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Globalization, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trade environment hold potential benefits for humanity – but also new risks, including with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, which may require States to adapt existing measures or to introduce new ones. Given the global nature of the challenge, no State is exempt from the need to implement effective measures to prevent such proliferation.

I should stress that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is the responsibility of States. However, effective implementation is more than simply ensuring that laws or regulations are in place. Among other things, it also requires active engagement between the State and relevant sectors of civil society, including industry, academia and professional associations. An effective partnership between States and industry is vital to successful non-proliferation efforts.

This conference is the fourth regional industry outreach conference flowing from the “Wiesbaden Process”, initiated by Germany in 2012. It is important to recall that This Process was designed to foster active dialogue between government and industry, which stands on the front-line in combating the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. However, different regions of the world, and different industry sectors, face different challenges, which have to be taken into consideration in order to ensure the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In this vain, I would like to emphasize that we initiated the Wiesbaden Process at the regional level right here in Seoul with the first Asia and Pacific industry outreach Conference, held in September 2016.

The agenda for the next one and half days underlines that participants will have the opportunity to discuss in detail various aspects and issues related to the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Sharing effective practices among States is a very important aspect of events such as this and I would encourage all participants to engage actively in the discussions, which would allow all to share experiences and to take stock of the lessons learnt.

The Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts, stands ready to cooperate with and, upon request, facilitate assistance to States with their 1540 implementation efforts in order to contribute to achieving our common objective of preventing the catastrophic use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this important Conference.

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