

**Opening Statement at Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of the
UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Costa Rica**

**by H.E. Eloy Alfaro de Alba,
1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations**

21 August 2025, San José, Costa Rica

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

As Chair of the 1540 Committee, I am delighted to open this Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Due to other commitments, I regret not being able to attend this event in person. I commend the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for hosting and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE-OAS) for organizing this workshop, in collaboration with the United States.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) by the Security Council more than 21 years ago represents a pivotal moment in international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation architecture by addressing the threat posed by non-State actor proliferation, particularly for terrorist purposes. This resolution does not seek to replace or alter existing instruments but rather aims to fill important gaps in the non-proliferation regime. In this regard, resolution 2663 adopted on 30 November 2022 again affirms that none of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) or to alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

It is important to note that resolution 1540 (2004) affirms that the prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, while the goals of peaceful utilisation should not be used as a cover for proliferation.

Let me also emphasize that resolution 1540 (2004) does not concern only those States that possess materials, equipment and technologies that can be used for the design, development, production or use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. Its objectives and obligations concern all States, as experience shows that non-State actors can exploit the territory of any State, for example using it for illicit trafficking, illegal financing activities, or to broker the sale of related items in third countries. No State is therefore immune to such risks, and it is imperative for all of them to take the requisite steps by adopting and enforcing appropriate effective national implementation measures in support of this global effort.

In fulfilment of the 1540 Committee's mandate in supporting and monitoring Member States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), a comprehensive review on the status of implementation will be conducted before December 2027 as required under resolution 2663 (2022). In this regard, regular updates from Member States on progress achieved towards the full and effective implementation of the resolution would be imperative.

The 1540 Committee welcomes Costa Rica's commitment to strengthen its national implementation through the development of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) for resolution 1540 (2004). During this workshop, members of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts will be ready to share details regarding the key obligations under the resolution, the status of implementation by Costa Rica, as well as to provide information on the various tools available to Member States for the development of 1540 National Implementation Action Plans, and on the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism, including its function in facilitating contact between States seeking technical assistance and potential providers of assistance.

To conclude, allow me to welcome the various national stakeholders present today at this event, who will contribute to the Workshop and the development of a 1540 NAP for Costa Rica. Let me to also acknowledge the presence of international and regional partners who might be able to offer various forms of assistance in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Costa Rica.

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I wish you success and a fruitful Workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

**Closing Statement at Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of the
UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Costa Rica**

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1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations**

22 August 2025, San José, Costa Rica

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address this closing session.

The 1540 Committee recognizes that the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remains a long-term task. This could indeed be a complex and challenging undertaking which requires significant effort and the allocation of resources amongst other, sometimes competing, national priorities. It is therefore particularly encouraging to note the commitment shown by the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica towards the development of its 1540 National Implementation Action Plan.

I trust that participants found this workshop useful and were able to engage actively in discussions on the measures required to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Since the adoption of this resolution, the Security Council has continued to acknowledge that some States may require assistance in implementing its provisions and invited States in a position to do so to offer assistance, as appropriate, in response to specific requests from other States. We hope that through the workshop session on assistance, participants were able to gain more insight into the kinds of assistance that are available from partners, States and international, regional, and subregional organizations, including those that have submitted offers through the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism.

The 1540 Committee remains ready, if requested, to provide additional support that may be required by Costa Rica both towards the finalization of its 1540 National Implementation Action Plan, which you are encouraged to share with the 1540 Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Government of Costa Rica, or your designated representatives, to participate in the open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations by the 1540 Committee, which is scheduled to be held in the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 29 - 30 October 2025.

The primary objective of this open briefing is to provide a summary of activities of the Committee on all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004). It also provides an opportunity to Member States, like Costa Rica, to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation.

Furthermore, Member States and participating organizations will also have an opportunity to engage in an informal interactive dialogue on 30 October 2025, immediately after the open briefing.

In conclusion, let me once again thank the Government of Costa Rica for hosting us and to CICTE/OAS, in cooperation with the United States, for organizing this workshop.

I thank you.