

Workshop on the Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)

Opening remarks
delivered on behalf of the 1540 Committee by

Mr. Enrique Ochoa

1540 Committee Expert

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To begin with, on behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our thanks to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing this event in cooperation with the Government of Peru.

I would also like to thank the Governments of Norway and the United States as well as the European Union for their generous financial support.

This event follows a similar regional workshop for ASEAN States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs from 15 - 17 October 2014 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1540 in 2004, the Security Council addressed the threat posed to international peace and security of non-State actors that may acquire, develop, transfer, or use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

There is no doubt that the proliferation of these weapons could have catastrophic global consequences. As these non-state actors do not respect borders, all elements of the global non-proliferation system must be constantly reinforced.

As you might be well aware of, resolution 1540 (2004) decided that States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. It also decided that States shall adopt, and more importantly, enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities in these weapons. The resolution also decided that States shall establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

While the resolution clearly spells out the obligations, States decide how they are implemented, in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems.

During the next three days we will have the opportunity to seek views from States from South America about challenges faced in implementing the obligations arising from resolution 1540. In particular we will concentrate our deliberations on the obligations related to the development and

maintenance of appropriate effective measures to account for and secure WMD and their related materials in production, use, storage or transport as well as the development and maintenance of appropriate effective physical protection measures.

This event is bringing regional partners together to share lessons learnt and effective practices. This will certainly have an impact in strengthening the capacity to implement the resolution and the non-proliferation network.

As you know 2014 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540. In the framework of this anniversary the Security Council held an Open Debate on the resolution on 7 May 2014, during which more than sixty countries expressed their support and commitment to the effective implementation of the resolution. That same date, the Security Council unanimously adopted the Presidential Statement that, “calls upon all States to step up their efforts to implement resolution 1540 [...] with a view to achieving full implementation of the resolution by 2021”.

I sincerely hope that our deliberations will bring us closer to this objective and consequently to making our world a safer place.

Thank you for your attention