



**Open Consultations on the Comprehensive Review of the Status of  
Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)**

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu  
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As delivered



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His Excellency, Ambassador de la Fuente Ramirez, Chairperson of the 1540 Committee,

Distinguished Members of the 1540 Committee,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address these Open Consultations on the Comprehensive Review on the Status of Implementation of resolution 1540, covering the period of 2016-2022.

Resolution 1540, adopted unanimously 18 years ago in 2004, has been an important tool to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery and related materials to non-State actors. The resolution has functioned as an excellent example of international cooperation towards our shared goal of establishing a peaceful global society, free from fears of WMD terrorism.

The 1540 Committee, at the forefront of this important task, has devoted itself in strengthening the global non-proliferation mechanism, through partnerships with UN offices, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Committee has further reached out to civil society, academia and the private sector, acknowledging that a collective approach is critical for a robust and adaptable resolution.

Much progress has been made since the adoption of the resolution. As the Committee's monitoring efforts have shown, States have increasingly implemented measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. Industries and academia have introduced compliance measures to ensure their products and knowledge are used for peaceful purposes. Enforcement officers have strengthened their capacities and developed a network of peers through various regional and global discussions and trainings. I commend the Committee for all its work and progress made.

We have come a long way since 2004, but it was well understood from the beginning that the implementation of resolution 1540 would be a long-term goal requiring constant collaboration, review, and adaptation. Even as we strengthen our efforts, new threats are

arising. As it did in the past, in 2009 and in 2016, the Committee now has the opportunity to review lessons learned since 2016 and evaluate how the 1540 mechanism could be improved to ensure it is fit for purpose in today's global context.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The security context of 2022 is very different from when the Security Council conducted previous reviews. We have experienced the devastating effects of COVID-19. The long-standing taboo against the use of chemical weapons has been broken. Science and technology are advancing at a pace and regulations are struggling to keep up.

In this evolving context, I would like to highlight what I see as some of the remaining challenges in the international community's efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD to non-State actors.

First, I would be remiss to not mention the continuing threats from biological weapons. We have witnessed the catastrophic economic and humanitarian cost of the COVID-19 pandemic, which still lingers today. The life-changing impact of the pandemic clearly shows how devastating it could be if similar biological agents were to be intentionally used for malicious purposes. However, as the 1540 Committee's reports show, investments made for the international architecture on these weapons remains the lowest among the weapons under the Committee's purview. We must do more to address this threat and ensure effective measures are in place to prevent human-made pandemics in the future.

Second, as the Security Council also noted in resolution 2325, we must keep pace with rapidly evolving technological advances. The Secretary General, in his report on the current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts, further emphasized how technologies, such as artificial intelligence, bio-chem technologies and materials technology can lower the barrier for non-State actors to gain access to materials and manufacturing techniques necessary to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The convergence of these technologies, such as AI and 3d printing, or

biotechnology and nanotechnology, can accelerate efforts to produce and acquire such weapons.

We must engage more actively with industry and academia, frontrunners in developing these technologies, to make sure that new technologies and knowledge remain peaceful in nature and are not transferred to malicious actors.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the importance of combatting proliferation financing, especially in today's interlinked global society. Proliferation financing can facilitate the movement and development of dual use items, taking advantage of global commerce and complex global supply chains. With the advent of new platforms, such as cryptocurrencies and other technological developments, it is ever-more critical to strengthen the system of control to effectively prevent malignant actors from financing proliferation efforts.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These are but some of the challenges that lie ahead in enhancing this critical mechanism that signifies our collective will to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery to non-State actors.

UN offices, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs, along with many international partners, regional and sub-regional institutions have been and will continue to support Member States' efforts to fully implement the resolution to achieve our shared goal.

However, the main responsibility of implementation lies with States, and the future of the 1540 mechanism relies on your active participation and sharing of ideas and recommendations. I count on the UN Security Council Members to make the most out of these Open Consultations and the on-going Comprehensive Review process to energize resolution 1540 and make it a robust mechanism that can address existing and newly emerging threats posed by the nexus between WMD and non-State actors.

I look forward to the outcome of the upcoming three days of discussions, and to the result of the comprehensive review, that will shape the years to come.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as always, continue to stand ready to fully support the work of the 1540 Committee and cooperate with Member States and relevant stakeholders in this regard.

I thank you very much for your attention.