

**CBRN Risk Mitigation in the Context of Combatting Terrorism**  
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Remarks by  
HE Juan Manuel Gonzalez  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, New York  
On the behalf of the Chair of the resolution 1540 (2004) Committee

**OPENING**

Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

Twelve years after its adoption, resolution 1540 (2004) has become one of the key components of the international regime to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. It is intended to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from taking any step that could be a prelude to their use. It doesn't stand alone in this regard. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other international instruments, and arrangements all work towards this end.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is an important complement to them, but it is also unique. For example, resolution 1540 (2004) covers all WMD and their means of delivery – not just one of them. It is also unique in that it requires States to implement a wide range of appropriate and effective domestic measures aimed at ensuring proper control of materials related to WMD. These steps include, for example, effective measures to account for, secure, and protect them and to control their export.

However, also during the last same twelve years, we have witnessed a relentless increase in extreme violence being perpetrated by terrorists, a matter of grave concern.

We are all well aware that we are not talking of theoretical acts. The Security Council is seized of the use of chemical weapons in Syria , ISIL has used them in Iraq and authoritative reports make it clear that ISIL has a chemical weapons programme and is developing improvised devices drawing on available technology and materials. We know that if terrorists had the opportunity and capability, they would not shirk from using a weapon of mass destruction.

Resolution 1540 is designed to prevent such an outcome. It is more important than ever to achieve its effective implementation.

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The status of implementation of the resolution is improving. Many States consider effective implementation of the resolution as an important national objective. All but 17 States have submitted reports to the 1540 Committee on their implementation measures, and many have submitted more than one. The development and adoption of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans is on the increase.

Of importance is that States can benefit in these efforts by the support available from an array of assistance programmes of Member States and international organisations, such as IAEA, OSCE, OPCW, African Union and others. International and regional organisations are providing important political and technical support. The Centres of Excellence supported by the European Union contribute, *inter alia*, to the capacity-building process in such areas as physical protection, security measures, border controls, law enforcement capabilities, which is relevant to the resolution 1540 (2004). This is one of the examples of the valuable role that regional organisations can play in promoting and facilitating effective implementation.

Due, in part, to the varying capacities of States, accomplishing the objective of full implementation of the resolution is a long-term task that will require continuous attention at national, regional and international levels along with sustained and intensified support from the 1540 Committee.

Progress is not uniform along two dimensions. One dimension is regional. In areas where national development is relatively weak, so, too, is implementation of the resolution. The other is substantive.

The 1540 Committee is giving careful consideration to what means might be available to narrow these gaps.

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Universities, colleges and industry are drivers of advances in science and technology. Over the past twelve years since the adoption of resolution 1540, scientists and engineers have made breakthroughs which bring important economic and humanitarian benefits. While these advances are to be welcomed, along with them are increasing risks of misuse for malign purposes.

For the most part the rapid progress is being driven outside the realm of governments in research, development and application in academia and industry. These and other developments have a continuing impact on the implementation of the resolution that requires constant attention by Member States to assure effective implementation of the obligations under the resolution.

Recognising these roles, as an integral part of the Comprehensive Review, a consultation was held in April with academics from around the world. This event not only covered ideas from the academic community on how to enhance implementation and how to encourage academic research on resolution 1540 implementation, but also included a discussion of academia's own

responsibilities for implementation of the resolution, particularly in the area of the physical sciences.

The Committee has also conducted extensive consultation over the past four years with industry through the framework of one of the best practices that can be shared by other countries called “Wiesbaden Process” initiated by Germany that has raised awareness in key industrial sectors and promoted action among companies on compliance with resolution 1540 obligations and other related international instruments. Today, hosted by the Republic of Korea in Seoul, a regional workshop for industry in the Asia-Pacific region is underway.

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In conclusion, I would like to underline that the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is influenced by the evolving nature of terrorism and is further complicated by rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce. Member States and the Committee need to take account of these trends. I am glad to note that later in the agenda today there is a discussion of these issues.

Only a strong international collaboration can help to protect the world against the horrific consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. Resolution 1540 is a vital component in the effort to prevent such an event from happening.

Thank you for your attention.