

UNSCR 1540 Comprehensive Review
Open Consultations
U.S. National Statement

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- The United States thanks Mexico for its leadership as Chair of the 1540 Committee. Under your guidance, the Committee and Group of Experts were able to continue the important work mandated to them and undertake a meaningful comprehensive review of UNSC resolution 1540 implementation.
- While resolution 1540 and the work of the 1540 Committee have typically been defined by multilateral consensus and collaboration, we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to once again condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and call on Russia's President to end his unprovoked, unconscionable war of choice against the Ukrainian people. Recent discussions in this Council relating to the vulnerability of nuclear, chemical, and biological materials in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine, underscore the vital importance of resolution 1540. In this regard, we hope we can continue our constructive, collaborative work on 1540, and better empower the Committee to more effectively support implementation of this important resolution.
- More broadly, the possibility of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) being acquired and used by terrorists or other non-state actors remains one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. Non-state actors' illicit acquisition and transfer of goods and know-how needed to manufacture WMD also remains a threat. UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) is an authoritative international instrument to address these types of threats to international peace and security, and the United States remains fully supportive of this resolution's importance and its implementation by all Member States.
- In the nearly two decades since the resolution was adopted, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts has helped the global community make significant progress in combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
- The Committee has encouraged Member States to establish the legal systems needed to reduce WMD proliferation risks and inspired Member States - including our own - to take a more coordinated approach to implementation.
- All of the Committee's efforts owe their success in part to the support of the UN Office on Disarmament Affairs and the activities made possible by the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, which it manages and to which the United States is happy to contribute.
- U.S. contributions to the Trust Fund, along with contributions from Japan and the Republic of Korea, have supported the development and translation of online 1540 training modules, which complement formal training courses and other Committee outreach activities. With the EU and Japan, we have also supported the hiring of UNSC resolution 1540 Coordinators for Africa and Asia, who are already greatly enhancing regional coordination.

- Despite the progress made, much work needs to be done to address existing and emerging proliferation threats.
- The Group of Experts must have a clear mandate to do their work without having to seek individual approval for each and every action it seeks to undertake. No other subsidiary body of the Security Council is forced to operate under such self-defeating constraints. We also need to increase the transparency of the Committee's operations. It is essential that we provide further definition for the roles and responsibilities of the Group of Experts, so as to better empower the Experts to help the Committee achieve its goals in support of the most effective 1540 implementation.
- We also need to ensure that the framework established by UNSC resolution 1540 and its successors addresses and responds to current WMD proliferation challenges. For example, we speak often in the UNSC resolution 1540 context about "finance" and "enforcement," but these terms are not defined in a way that reflects modern-day proliferation realities.
- Other aspects of the current mandate require attention as well. Informing Member States about technical resources that can enable them to better assess evolving proliferation risks would help states more effectively implement their obligations under the resolution. This would also improve national reporting and inform more efficient matchmaking.
- Strengthened collaboration of the Committee and the Group of Experts with international and regional organizations and civil society, including industry, academia, and nongovernmental organizations would provide additional benefits to Member States in their implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 and subsequent resolutions, such as UNSC resolution 2325 (2016). In the spirit of the original resolution, the Committee should be allowed to share with Member States information that IOs have provided to the Committee. We welcome the inclusion of international and regional organizations and representatives of civil society in these Open Consultations and look forward to hearing their views later this week.
- We cannot talk about inclusivity in addressing such threats, however, without mentioning the underrepresentation of women in the national security and nonproliferation policy space. Women's full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation in decision-making is essential to achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. We must mainstream gender inclusivity in these areas as well as a gendered perspective and analysis in the assistance-related work undertaken by the Committee.
- To all of these ends, the United States strongly supports the continued work of the Committee and looks forward to completing a meaningful comprehensive review that informs a renewal of the Committee's mandate later this year.