



**Remarks by High representative for Disarmament Affairs
Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu**

**Informal meeting of the 1540 Committee on the Conclusions of the Chile-
Colombia Peer Review**



New York
7 June 2018

Mr. Chairman

Ambassadors Mejia and Skonkic

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor and a pleasure to be here with you today to assess the results of the most recent peer review by Chile and Colombia of the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540.

In the years since its adoption, resolution 1540 has been seen as an important multilateral tool to help prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors, and to facilitate the exchange of information and assistance among states.

The challenges that States face as they seek to promote implementation of resolution 1540 moving forward are less about legitimacy and more about the difficulty of regularizing and institutionalizing the processes by which States interact with one another under the resolution.

UNSCR 1540 has largely been effective in encouraging States to provide detailed descriptions of the domestic legal authorities and administrative structures they have in place to address the threat of WMD proliferation.

The Committee and the Group of Experts have done the international community a great service in developing, populating, and making available the UNSCR 1540 matrices.

But there is a need for more in-depth, on-the-ground assessment of the quality of implementation, particularly if the international community continues to develop more detailed common understandings of what implementation steps are needed.

Additional progress can and should be made by the Security Council, the 1540 Committee, and of course by the Member States who are responsible for the implementation of the resolution, to ensure that the maximum nonproliferation and security benefits that might be produced are achieved.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Peer reviews are an important tool that states can use to mutually observe each other's enactment of resolution 1540 and draw lessons to advance their own implementation.

States are encouraged to request such peer reviews, to engage relevant international organizations to make review services available in their areas of expertise, and provide funding or call on donor states to contribute funding to support such reviews.

The initial peer review by Croatia and Poland in 2013 was an important step in the right direction. But, despite its proven value I must admit that it is a largely underused tool.

The one we are going to review today unfortunately is only the third of its kind, following the one held in 2017, with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific between Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

While we are only beginning to understand the added value of such reviews to the implementation of the resolution, it must be clear that given the breadth of UNSCR 1540, it is likely to be easier to organize a review that provides really in-depth feedback if it is focused on a particular area - export control, for example, or security of biological pathogens.

Ways should be found to encourage broad use of peer reviews in each of the substantive areas of UNSCR 1540 implementation.

Let us also not forget that effective practices in the implementation of obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), specifically in the area of export and border controls, are discussed at the Wiesbaden process conferences, be it at the global or regional level. I welcome the most comprehensive participation to these events.

Mr. Chairman

I am encouraged by the fact that in its sixteenth programme of work, the Committee recognized the need to promote the sharing of experience through peer reviews and other means, table-top exercises to evaluate and reinforce effective practices, and lessons learned.

I sincerely hope that we will see more of these exercises in the future.

I thank you.