Remarks at launching event of the online training course on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

New York
14 October 2019
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the launch of the online training course on UN Security Council resolution 1540.

In today’s world of increasing uncertainty and heightened risks in different parts of the world, we must acknowledge that the rising risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors is not limited to a single country or region. Our global interconnectedness brings with it tremendous benefits and prosperity. At the same time, an interconnected global supply chain, if misused, can also contribute to the realization of the nightmare scenario of WMD terrorism.

In this regard, resolution 1540, adopted unanimously in 2004, serves a critical role in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD, related materials and technologies to non-State actors.

One key aspect to achieving the full and universal implementation of the resolution is to ensure that all Member States have sufficient capacity and understanding of what is required by them under the resolution. In this regard, my Office has long cooperated with the 1540 Committee in delivering regional training programmes to national 1540 Points of Contact, organizing over 10 trainings in different regions including the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, the OSCE Region and Africa.

In line with such efforts, I am proud to be able to present to you today the Online Training Course on resolution 1540. It aims to assist all Member States, civil society and individuals who are interested in resolution 1540 to learn about how the resolution came into place, what its major obligations are, and what kind of work the UN and other international organizations are doing to support its full and universal implementation. The course also covers how the resolution relates to other normative instruments and how international and regional organizations, industry and civil society jointly contribute to the achievement of its objectives.
It is my hope that this course will allow more government officials, researchers and students, wherever they are located, to enhance their understanding of resolution 1540 and its important role.

I would like to especially thank our partners, the Governments of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States, for generously supporting this initiative and making it a reality. Your Excellencies, thank you for your presence with us here today and for your commitment to furthering the critical work of education and capacity-building in this field.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you here today. I hope the online training course will provide value to your work and studies and to enhancing your understanding on how the UN contributes to a safer world for all.

Thank you very much.