

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF | 1540 COMPASS
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Dear Readers, Colleagues and Contributors,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the *1540 Compass*. Dedicated to advancing the objectives of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540) (2004) and its successor resolutions, the *1540 Compass* aims to be a trusted source of knowledge, analysis, and dialogue for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery by non-State actors.

Adopted unanimously 20 years ago, on 28 April 2004, UNSCR 1540 stands as a cornerstone in global efforts to safeguard international peace and security. However, the challenges inherent in comprehending, implementing, and adapting to its provisions persist. As one of the six specialized research and training institutes of the United Nations and a member of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is uniquely positioned to address this knowledge gap.

In light of this, UNICRI is proudly re-launching the *1540 Compass* after an eight-year hiatus. First published in 2012 by the Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) under the direction of Dr Igor Khripunov, the *1540 Compass* was designed as an accessible forum for enhancing the effective implementation of UNSCR 1540. Now, here at UNICRI, we wish to build and expand on this esteemed legacy.

Our vision for the *1540 Compass* is bold and ambitious.

We aim to foster a space for robust knowledge exchange, insightful analysis, and meaningful dialogue among Member States, academic experts, policymakers, practitioners and followers of

everything resolution 1540 related. The *1540 Compass* promises to be a platform for everybody, and we encourage all stakeholders involved in non-proliferation to leverage it. The success of the *1540 Compass* lies in the widest participation of us all. By sharing best practices and nurturing discussion in this collaborative manner, the *1540 Compass* will contribute to global efforts to counter the grave threat of WMD proliferation and reinforce international peace and security.

We have dedicated this issue to “20 Years of UNSCR 1540”, with two timelines showcasing the resolution’s evolution over the past two decades. We also benefitted from interviews with three key stakeholders from the resolution’s past, present and future: Ambassador Motoc, the inaugural Chair of the 1540 Committee; Dr Nsouli, Director General of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission; and, speaking in his national capacity, Ambassador De La Gasca, the current Chair of the 1540 Committee.

A wide variety of contributors submitted articles which reflect on the past 20 years of the resolution. Many focus on the evolution of different facets of the resolution, such as the biological or chemical components and their corresponding conventions. This issue therefore features a diverse array of articles touching upon critical themes such as the impact of UNSCR 1540 – as well as the successes and challenges of its implementation – over the past 20 years, with a view to offering improvements for the future. And finally, in the spirit of collaboration, international organizations have also contributed to this issue, embodying inclusive dialogue that we strive to foster.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who have so willingly shared their knowledge and time. I also extend my deepest gratitude to our esteemed board of advisors and our generous donor, the US Department of State, whose unwavering support has made the revival of the *1540 Compass* possible.

I encourage you, our readers, to actively engage with the *1540 Compass* by submitting articles, event notifications and any other tool or resources that can benefit our publication. Let us continue this strong start as we look towards the next issue, which is slated for publication in September and will focus on border, export and trans-shipment controls. We will post a renewed call for contributions in the coming weeks on our website and social media channels, with further details on the theme.

Warm regards,
Francesco Marelli