

# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



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

Welcome to the second issue of the *1540 Compass*, our e-journal dedicated to exploring the critical components of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (UNSCR 1540). In this edition, we focus on the importance of border and export control systems for the full and effective implementation of the resolution, as outlined in operative paragraph (OP) 3, clauses (c) and (d). These are particularly significant because they require States to establish robust export and border control systems regardless of their membership in other international conventions, treaties or export control regimes. These clauses underscore the global community's commitment to a secure world, where proliferation risks are minimized through effective domestic controls.

This issue features a diverse range of contributions, with a strong focus on implementation in Africa. Isabel Bosman provides an overview of the status of UNSCR 1540 implementation on the continent, while Sonia Drobysz and Eliza Walsh explore the different approaches to export controls over biological weapons-related materials in Africa.

On page 16, we present an in-depth interview with Dr Janes Mokgadi, Deputy Director of Botswana's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and Radiological Weapons Management Authority. Dr Mokgadi shares Botswana's efforts to develop a voluntary national action plan, highlighting the support received from regional partners and through the 1540 Committee's matchmaking mechanism. For more on the Committee's matchmaking mechanism, see our explainer on page 14.

Equally significant is our conversation with Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, Algerian Ambassador and President of the 2015 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference, on page 24. Ambassador Feroukhi discusses the complementary roles of UNSCR 1540 and the

NPT in enhancing global security and offers insights on Algeria's approach to fulfilling its 1540 obligations. Additionally, we feature the second part of our interview series with Ambassador José Javier De La Gasca, as well as an interview with former U.S. 1540 Coordinator Thomas Wuchte.

This issue includes articles that shed light on best practices from Japan, Kenya, and Singapore—countries that have placed great importance on implementing strategic trade controls. These articles offer models and strategies that can serve as useful case studies for other States.

Given the dual-use nature of many emerging technologies, we also feature discussions on their impact on the resolution, especially in the context of OP 3 (d), which calls for end-user controls for exports. To learn more, see Hyuk Kim's article on artificial intelligence and Dr De Silva, Professor Martinez, and Dr Perera's piece on emerging technologies in the chemical domain.

On page 102, we are particularly honoured to present an article by Dr Jonathan Brewer, former Coordinator of the UN 1540 Group of Experts, who delves into the complex issue of proliferation finance. Dr Brewer unpacks the challenges posed by the absence of an official definition for the term and offers practical recommendations for the way forward. Giuseppe Di Luccia and Chandana Seshadri further develop the theme of proliferation finance in their articles on pages 108 and 114, respectively.

Recognizing the critical role that civil society plays in preventing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation, we feature two articles on pages 120 and 128, regarding how stakeholders such as industry and academia can collaborate with governments and international organizations to ensure compliance with the resolution.

As always, our goal is to foster a nuanced and thoughtful discussion within the community dedicated to UNSCR 1540's implementation. In this issue, we launch our Letters-to-the-Editor section with a reflective letter from O'Neil Hamilton, which we hope will inspire others to share their views in future issues.

In closing, I want to emphasize the critical importance of OP 3 (c) and (d) in the context of global security. By establishing and strengthening border and export controls, Member States are contributing to a collective effort to prevent WMD proliferation.

Thank you for your continued support of the *1540 Compass*. I hope you find this issue both informative and inspiring.

Warm regards,

Francesco Marelli