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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council considered the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” at one meeting and adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years.

A table lists the meeting held in consideration of this item, as well as related information, including speakers and the decision adopted.

20 April 2011: consideration of the extension of the 1540 Committee mandate

On 20 April 2011, the Security Council unanimously adopted [resolution 1977 \(2011\)](#), by which it expressed grave concern regarding the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-state actors may acquire, develop, traffic in, or use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years until 25 April 2021. Furthermore, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the 1540 Committee, a group of up to eight experts (“group of experts”) acting under the direction and purview of the Committee, to assist it in carrying out its mandate.¹

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Brazil emphasized that while her Government strongly supported an effective and well-coordinated group of

¹ For more information on the sanctions measures, see part VII, sect. III. A, with regard to decisions adopted in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter. For information on the respective mandates of the Committee established pursuant to [resolution 1540 \(2004\)](#) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.2, with regard to the Security Council committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter.

experts, it did not favor the idea that the group should have a leadership position on a par with or superseding, the authority of the 1540 Committee.² Meanwhile, the representative of India emphasized that the international community should join hands in eliminating the risks related to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors. He further emphasized that the focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish State accountability in combating terrorism and dismantling its support infrastructure and its linkages with weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, he stated that, after the adoption of [resolution 1540 \(2004\)](#), his Government had taken additional steps to further strengthen its existing legislative and regulatory mechanism for exercising control over weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.³

Meeting: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6518 20 April 2011	Draft resolution submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/257)	Brazil, India	Resolution 1977 (2011) 15-0-0

² [S/PV.6518](#), p. 2.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 3.