



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Engaging parliaments of the Pacific region in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540

18–20 September 2019, New Zealand Parliament (Wellington)



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One of the aims of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is to prevent non-State actors from accessing weapons of mass destruction. When the resolution was adopted, the global disarmament and non-proliferation framework gained an important tool that can be used to address the changing international security environment and the growing range of challenges.

Unfortunately, the threats and risks that the resolution aimed to tackle 15 years ago are still present and are not confined to one country or region. Collective efforts, including by parliamentarians, are needed for an effective approach to preventing chemical, biological and nuclear proliferation, and the illegal acquisition and use of such material. Indeed, resolution 2325 (2016) stated that parliamentarians have a key role in enacting the necessary legislation to implement the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004).



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The event

On 18–20 September 2019, the IPU and the New Zealand House of Representatives co-organized a regional seminar in Wellington, New Zealand, for Pacific island parliaments on the implementation of resolution 1540. The seminar was supported by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) – the 1540 Committee. The event was designed to raise awareness of resolution 1540 and to examine the role of parliamentarians in relation to it. It also enabled parliamentarians with different capacities and at different stages of implementing the resolution to meet, exchange ideas, share experiences and engage with experts.

Participants included parliamentary officials from Bangladesh, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Presentations were given by government officials from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Romania and the United States of America; and experts from the 1540 Committee, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), UNODA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO); civil society representatives from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) also gave presentations.

What can parliamentarians do?

As the institutions responsible for making laws, overseeing government action, approving the national budget and representing the interests of citizens, parliaments have an essential role to play in ensuring that the necessary legal instruments are in place to help protect citizens from the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials. Parliamentarians can contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 through four of their roles:

- **Law-making**

Resolution 1540 has a strong legislative component, as it requires UN Member States to adopt and implement appropriate and effective laws to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials. Parliamentarians are thus responsible for ensuring that the provisions of resolution 1540 are fully transposed into domestic law.

- **Oversight**

Parliamentarians are responsible for ensuring that the legal provisions they adopt are thoroughly implemented and enforced. MPs hold their governments accountable by reviewing progress towards implementation and should draw the executive's attention to any progress deemed insufficient.

- **Budgetary powers**

Parliamentarians can require the necessary budget to be allocated to relevant government agencies, such as the 1540 national authority, national laboratories, and customs administration and border management authorities, so that the agencies can carry out their duties effectively in accordance with the obligations of resolution 1540.

- **Representation**

By discussing matters with industry, civil society and the public, parliamentarians can raise awareness and explain why implementing resolution 1540 is in everybody's interest. Parliamentarians can also engage in regional and international inter-parliamentary dialogue to advance the regional and global implementation of resolution 1540, and other disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

“As the legislative branch of government is also responsible for oversight and budget allocations, parliaments have a key role to play in supporting the implementation of the resolution.”

Saber Chowdhury, Honorary President,
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Introducing Resolution 1540 and related international agreements to parliamentarians

Parliamentarians received information on the wider disarmament and non-proliferation multilateral framework, on relevant provisions of resolution 1540, and on how parliamentarians can first transpose those provisions into domestic law and then implement them.

Resolution 1540 and related disarmament and non-proliferation agreements are legally binding but not self-executing regimes. National authorities must do what is necessary to implement the agreements' provisions. Resolution 2325 stipulates that parliamentarians can contribute to implementing a number of obligations under resolution 1540:

- To ensure that no support is provided to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery (operative paragraph 1);
- To prohibit activities involving nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, as well as attempts to engage in, participate as an accomplice to, assist or finance those activities (operative paragraph 2);

- To establish measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport (operative paragraph 3(a));
- To establish physical protection measures for such items (operative paragraph 3(b));
- To establish border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items (operative paragraph 3(c));
- To establish control measures for export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export; to establish end-user controls and controls on financing related to such export and trans-shipment; and to establish and enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such measures (operative paragraph 3(d));
- To develop national control lists of such items (operative paragraph 6);
- To incorporate into domestic rules and regulations international commitments stemming from multilateral non-proliferation treaties (operative paragraph 8(b));
- To develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws (operative paragraph 8(d));
- To promote dialogue and cooperation on non-proliferation (operative paragraph 9);
- To take cooperative action to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials (operative paragraph 10).

The most relevant provisions for parliamentarians are in operative paragraph 2, which covers the prohibition of proliferation activities, and paragraph 3, which provides for the establishment of effective measures to account for and secure weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery when being produced, used, stored or transported, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. The promotion of cooperation on non-proliferation captured in operative paragraph 9 was also identified as a key aspect of the effective implementation of resolution 1540 in the Pacific. The particularly wide scope of the resolution implies that all institutional authorities should be involved, as should various segments of industry, academia and civil society. Parliamentarians therefore have a role to play in: engaging with those groups to raise awareness of the resolution; engaging with their governments to encourage them to join multilateral treaties and oversee their implementation; and reaching out to fellow parliamentarians and regional governance structures to promote regional dialogue on resolution 1540.

The disarmament and non-proliferation regime consists of a multitude of conventions and multilateral treaties that relate directly to the implementation of resolution 1540, such as:

- The 1925 Geneva Protocol;
- The 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);
- The 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC);
- The 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) ;
- The 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR);
- Eight of the 19 international terrorism conventions:
 - The 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
 - The 1979 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)
 - The 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM
 - The 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings
 - The 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism
- The 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
- The 2005 Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf
- The 2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation
- The 2002 Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

In addition to resolution 1540, States are legally bound to incorporate provisions stemming from these multilateral treaties into domestic laws and regulations. Parliamentarians can use various legislative frameworks to achieve this:

- The Constitution;
- Legislation dedicated to the implementation of multilateral treaties such as the NPT, CWC and BWC;
- The criminal or penal code;
- Counter-terrorism legislation;
- Omnibus legislation specific to resolution 1540.



Identifying challenges and opportunities

Parliamentarians were divided into three working groups to discuss challenges and opportunities around: prohibiting and criminalizing proliferation activities; establishing measures to account for and secure weapons of mass destruction and related materials when being produced, used, stored or transported; promoting regional cooperation and awareness-raising; and reviewing national reports and matrices. The group work allowed for the exchange of good legislative and regulatory practices. It encouraged members of parliament to forge individual working relationships and/or join informal cross-border networks.

The key conclusion from the discussions **was that the approach to fulfilling 1540 obligations should be contextualized**. A one-size-fits-all approach to adopting and implementing legislation did not consider the particular circumstances of Pacific States.

The first step towards contextualizing 1540 obligations is to identify the challenges that lie in the path of parliamentary efforts in the Pacific. Identifying those challenges will allow the approach to resolution 1540 to be adapted to regional specificities.

A. Challenge

Limited capacity

States that have small bureaucracies with limited human, technical and financial resources (as is the case with small island developing States) face a substantial compliance burden in meeting resolution 1540 requirements.

The scarcity of resources is even more acutely felt in overseas territories. They are constantly left out of the frame and are ill-equipped. This puts them at particular risk of being the victims of illicit activities.

“United Nations commitments can impose a significant implementation and compliance load on smaller States.”

Rt Hon Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the House of Representatives, New Zealand

A. Opportunities

Building parliamentary capacity and providing support

Parliamentarians can get assistance from a number of partners and specialized agencies (see list in Annex) that can put their expertise and resources at the disposal of MPs.

Parliamentarians stand to benefit from three types of support:

- I. Training modules and workshops that aim to give MPs the required knowledge and skills to fulfil their duties on resolution 1540.** A Pacific regional workshop on model provisions for obligations under resolution 1540 was identified as a good example of a capacity-building exercise.
- II. Technical programmes that involve experts working alongside parliamentarians for a certain period.** It was suggested that an expert from the 1540 Committee could be based in the Pacific for one year or, following the CARICOM model, a permanent 1540 Pacific coordinator could be appointed, for instance, within the PIF.
- III. Institutional platforms empowering parliamentarians.** The PIF or the IPU could host a network of champion parliamentarians on resolution 1540.

B. Challenge

Competing priorities

Parliamentarians deal with competing priorities, such as climate change, education, crime and unemployment. Governments or electorates see these as more pressing than resolution 1540.

B. Opportunities

Developing synergies

Resolution 1540 primarily focuses on preventing non-State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. However, the resolution is also relevant beyond the limited field of non-proliferation and has far-reaching consequences for other policy sectors. In the long term, States stand to benefit in numerous ways from the implementation of the resolution. It is therefore important to look at resolution 1540 through a multisectoral prism:

I. The economy – Many legitimate industrial and scientific activities rely on dual-use goods and technologies. These require specific control measures to prevent them from being mishandled or diverted. By adopting and overseeing the implementation of provisions to prevent illicit activities, control sensitive material and prosecute violations, parliamentarians contribute to creating a more secure environment for trade and other economic activities. Implementation signals to potential investors that one's country is a safe business location with responsible decision-makers. This contributes to sustainable and secure industrial and economic development.

II. The environment – Chemical or biological incidents, whether naturally occurring, accidental or man-made, have the potential to inflict irreversible damage on the environment. Poorly implemented or no legislation on the security or safety of research facilities, disease surveillance, urbanization, toxic chemicals and toxic waste management, technological development and quarantine can result in noxious substance leaks or the spread of infectious diseases. Resolution 1540 also contributes to environmental protection.

III. Health – The implementation of resolution 1540 contributes to compliance with the IHR and vice versa. Indeed, those who implement the IHR core capacities must address issues such as biological, chemical and radio-nuclear hazards, and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. These are all crucial to the objectives of resolution 1540. Implementing the resolution will therefore enhance public health and safety.

IV. Finance – By adopting provisions to counter the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, parliamentarians contribute to enhancing the integrity of their national financial systems. Such provisions ensure that national financial institutions, such as banks, are not misused by criminal and terrorist networks to traffic in weapons and related materials.

V. Security – By adopting provisions to enhance border control and customs enforcement, parliamentarians reduce the risk not only of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials crossing borders, but also of trafficking in other illicit items, such as narcotics and small arms. Border and customs provisions also strengthen the State's capacity to control and track the entry, stockpiling, transfer and use of other sensitive goods on its national territory.

Implementing resolution 1540 and joining multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes should be seen as an investment not only in security but also in economic development, public health and environmental protection. For example, the IAEA uses radio-nuclear techniques for health and environmental purposes, such as the survival of mangroves and fish through reducing the acidification of oceans.

Through its multisectoral impact, the implementation of resolution 1540 also makes a direct contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Parliamentary action

Parliamentarians can use their representative role to establish a dialogue with civil society, industry and the public on the benefits of resolution 1540. Going back to their constituencies and sharing information through grass-roots education on how resolution 1540 relates to people's security, economic, health and environmental interests is crucial to raising public awareness of the legislation in place and to raising the 1540 issue on the political agenda.





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C. Challenge

Information deficit

Parliamentarians are not necessarily aware of the treaties and conventions their governments might sign, and so can be unaware of the accompanying obligations. This lack of information increases the difficulty of overseeing implementation.

“If it were not for this seminar, many parliamentary officials would not have understood the obligations that came with resolution 1540.”

Yonita Tuia, parliamentary staff, Samoa

C. Opportunities

Gathering information

The objectives of resolution 1540 can only be fully met if the legislative and executive branches work closely together. Parliamentarians can and should seek to enhance their interaction with governments on resolution 1540 issues.

Ultimately, implementing resolution 1540 depends to a large extent on parliamentarians’ awareness of the resolution and related issues. It is thus important for MPs to be attuned to what the different branches of government are doing about resolution 1540.

Parliamentarians can use their oversight function to establish mechanisms to overcome the information deficit and improve the flow of communication between legislators and their governments.

Parliamentary action

Existing standing or select committees are a good place to start discussing resolution 1540 with governments, including through committees on foreign affairs, defence, health, the environment or transport.

Parliamentarians on relevant committees can oversee matters by organizing hearings and inviting government officials and experts to:

- Share points of contact in government agencies dealing with 1540 issues;
- Monitor the implementation process;
- Review national action plans;
- Enquire about national coordination mechanisms;
- Find out if relevant agencies are given the necessary authority, budget and training;
- Enquire about the position of their governments on multilateral treaties that have not yet been signed or ratified, and make the case for their adoption.

Hearings on resolution 1540 can be held once or twice a year and become a regular feature of committees’ agendas. They are also useful for raising public awareness and the level of political interest.

D. Challenge

Lack of cooperation and coordination

Although Pacific countries are party to most disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, the provisions of resolution 1540 have been adopted to different extents. This can generate loopholes in national legislation and uneven regional implementation.

D. Opportunities

Fostering cooperation and coordination

As resolution 1540 is multisectoral, its implementation requires the involvement of a number of different national and regional actors. Their level of coordination and the depth of cooperation among different stakeholders have a direct bearing on the resolution's successful implementation. This also applies to the various parliamentary committees that have a stake in 1540-related issues. Coordination among parliamentarians and cooperation between parliamentarians and other stakeholders will often determine their effectiveness in implementing the resolution's provisions.

Parliamentarians do not need to wait for governments to act. MPs can be proactive and take ownership of resolution 1540.

Parliamentary action

National and regional inter-parliamentary cooperation can take many forms:

- Parliamentarians with an interest in the topic could meet, either within existing committees (such as those for defence and/or foreign affairs), or as part of specialized cross-party groups of MPs who sit on relevant committees;
- There should be a parliamentary focal point to sustain interest and information flow on the subject. Focal points could meet as a specific regional network and act as a *1540 lobby*;
- Peer-review exercises should be encouraged in which parliamentarians from the Pacific can gather to review legislation, identify gaps and exchange good practices;
- Communication channels should be set up between parliamentarians from the Pacific and their counterparts from countries facing similar challenges. For example, communication with the CARICOM States would allow Pacific MPs to learn from the Caribbean experience.

“Parliamentarians tend to work too much in silos; there is a need to establish cross-committee action on resolution 1540.”

Hon. Kenilorea Jr, Solomon Islands

Parliamentarians should engage with regional governance structures. This could take many forms:

- Parliamentarians should take advantage of regional forums (such as the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) to raise awareness, exchange ideas and share experiences about implementing resolution 1540;
- Parliamentarians can leverage the PIF Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security that calls for the universalization of relevant international security arrangements. More recently, the Boe Declaration on Regional Security also provides a suitable vehicle for parliamentarians to raise the issue of resolution 1540 and include it in existing regional security strategies;
- Parliamentarians can ask their governments to include MPs and parliamentary staff in delegations to appropriate regional forums and conferences;
- Parliamentarians can send the joint statement adopted at the end of the seminar to their governments. They can send it to the PIF Secretariat for consideration, discussion and possible tabling at the next PIF leaders' meeting. The statement can also be introduced into other regional forums.

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E. Challenge

Security risks and threats

Criminal entities can use Pacific countries to traffic in weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery or related materials. However, there is limited appreciation that proliferation networks which trade in strategic goods could leverage existing regional networks that currently trade in guns and narcotics.

The Pacific is not free of materials, equipment and technology that are covered by relevant multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and arrangements, or included in national control lists, and that could be used for the development, acquisition, manufacture, possession, transport, transfer or use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials. In addition, MPs also noted that the Pacific is not free of materials, equipment and technology that could cause health and/or environmental hazards if not handled properly.

There is a global risk of nuclear, chemical, biological or terrorist incidents, as shown by attacks in the UK in 2018 and in Malaysia in 2017. While the Pacific is far from war zones, terrorist incidents can happen anywhere, as the Christchurch shooting in March 2019 demonstrated.

With a huge maritime area to cover and overstretched border security and customs systems, the Pacific is becoming susceptible to illicit transfer, trans-shipment and trafficking to or through the region.

Advances in science and technology have moved at an unprecedented pace in the last decade. Developments that were unthinkable just years ago, such as gene editing and biotechnology, are now possible and facilitated by information technology tools. Those developments add a layer of complexity and create further oversight and control challenges.

E. Opportunities

Reinforcing legislative and enforcement frameworks to mitigate risks

It is counterproductive to try to reinvent the wheel. Therefore, the implementation of resolution 1540 should include consideration of the benefits of maximizing efficiencies, and strengthening both legislative frameworks and existing governance and enforcement structures.

Existing legislation can be amended to integrate obligations under resolution 1540 and related agreements into existing processes on national and regional security, health and food safety, environmental protection and economic development.

Parliamentary action

Through their law-making function, parliamentarians can:

- Draft new legislation or amend existing legislation on resolution 1540, taking account of the government's inputs;
- Support the adoption of draft laws or amendments on resolution 1540 proposed by governments;
- Review legislation to ensure it reflects technological developments;
- Review current insufficiencies and expand the scope of legislation where necessary. For example:
 - **The environment** – The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention's 2010 Nagoya Protocol, and national laws on environmental protection can be built on and expanded to include some aspects of resolution 1540;
 - **Public health** – Existing national legislation can be complemented by the IHR;
 - **Security** – Existing instruments such as CARICOM States' control lists, and existing constructs such as the Australia Group control list, can complement national control lists on materials of proliferation concern. There are also a number of model laws available that can meet the needs of small island States, including several drafted by New Zealand.

The application of these existing mechanisms can reinforce national frameworks. The overall impact can be to regulate the development and/or use of dual-use materials, enhance export controls and prevent proliferation. The implementation of export controls needs to be appropriate and effective for each State in the context of its industrial capability and participation in the global supply chain.

To maximize the effectiveness of existing law enforcement structures, parliamentarians can also use their budgetary function to review and allocate budgets to agencies involved in implementing resolution 1540. Parliamentarians must engage government agencies in advance so as to understand their work and the resources needed to carry out their functions effectively.



Conclusion

Parliamentarians have a key role to play in the effective implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions.

The approach to implementing resolution 1540 in the Pacific must take account of regional specificities. Leverage points that parliamentarians can exploit to advance the implementation of resolution 1540 in the Pacific include: strengthening existing frameworks, raising public awareness, enhancing the level of inter-parliamentary cooperation and coordination, engaging with the government and regional security governance structures, and developing cross-sectoral synergies. Given the heavy structural constraints under which parliamentarians operate, support from international partners and specialized agencies is crucial to enabling MPs to carry out their duties effectively.

Participants recommended that a joint statement in support of parliamentary action on resolution 1540 in the Pacific should be adopted at the end of the seminar. The joint statement (see annex) reinforced the commitment that MPs made to implement the resolution using all tools and functions at their disposal (law-making, budget allocation, oversight and representation). Some parliamentarians have already taken specific action since the seminar.

This seminar is not an end in itself but an important step towards achieving our common objective. The implementation of resolution 1540 is a continuous and long-term task that requires national, subregional, regional and international efforts and cooperation, and that involves many actors, including parliamentarians.



Annexes

Online Resources

National report

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/general-information.shtml

National reports provide an overview of a State's progress towards implementing resolution 1540. The report records what a State has done or intends to do to achieve implementation.

National Reports are important because they provide:

- A guide to the progress of other Member States towards implementing resolution 1540;
- A source for populating national action plans to help focus the development of prohibitions on activities involving nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; measures to account for, secure and physically protect related materials; strategic trade legislation and export control infrastructure; the regulations and enforcement mechanisms necessary for the implementation of resolution 1540;
- Details to the 1540 Committee about additional measures that have been or are being undertaken to meet obligations under the resolution;
- Information for potential assistance providers on how support should be targeted;
- 1540 experts with useful information to facilitate reach-back and so help Member States in developing assistance requests.

National matrix

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/general-information.shtml

The matrix is a tool used by the 1540 Committee to reflect what States have done to implement the obligations of the resolution. Information in the matrix comes from official sources within States and intergovernmental organizations. The matrix covers the requirements of the resolution and can help States identify areas for further action.

Voluntary National Implementation Action Plan

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/general-information.shtml

The Action Plan provides a more detailed picture of a Member State's priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540. It helps identify national 1540 stakeholders and their responsibilities, the current legislative and regulatory framework, existing gaps, a possible course of action and time frames to fill the gaps, and potential external assistance. The Plan should align with national realities and priorities. Its scope, content and format may vary. The 1540 Committee is not prescriptive in terms of the format and content of these Action Plans.

List of legislative documents

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/legislative-database/list-of-legislative-documents.shtml

The list of legislative documents is being updated and will soon be available. It is a compilation of national regulations and laws covering the operational paragraphs of resolution 1540. It provides a snapshot of the regulatory and legislative framework relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540.

List of national points of contact

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/national-points-of-contact.shtml

This document lists the contact information of government officials in charge of implementing resolution 1540.

The World Customs Organization's Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Implementation Guide

www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/instruments-and-tools/guidelines/wco-strategic-trade-control-enforcement-implementation-guide.aspx

The Guide is designed primarily for customs officials and provides useful information on key steps to establishing an effective strategic trade control system. The Guide should help parliamentarians to draft clear legislation for customs enforcement.

Counter-terrorism conventions

www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/legal-instruments.shtml

The common elements of the conventions are that they criminalize particular conduct, establish jurisdiction (including the *extradite or prosecute (aut dedere aut judicare)* principle), and provide for international cooperation mechanisms.

The Strategic Partnership for International Health

Regulations and the Health Security website has an interactive map showing country preparedness profiles. <https://extranet.who.int/sph/>

It can help parliamentarians identify health security gaps and priorities.

Manual on National Implementing Legislation for the Chemical Weapons Convention

www.opcw.org/resources/national-implementation/model-implementing-legislation

The manual contains State practices, model language, sample legislation, commentary and tools for self-assessment.

IPU webpage on resolution 1540 in the Pacific

www.ipu.org/event/regional-seminar-parliaments-and-implementation-un-security-council-resolution-1540-pacific-island-parliaments

Parliamentarians will find comprehensive information about the regional seminar on the implementation of resolution 1540 for Pacific island parliaments. The seminar was held by the IPU and the New Zealand parliament.

Assistance

Points of contact

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/cooperation/points-of-contact.shtml

A list of points of contact in international organizations and specialized agencies.

1540 Committee

www.un.org/en/sc/1540/assistance/general-information.shtml

The 1540 Committee is a subsidiary body of the Security Council, composed of the fifteen current members of the Council. The Committee's mandate and scope of activities are derived from resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008), 1977 (2011), 2325 (2016) and the Programmes of Work submitted to the President of the Security Council by the Chair of the 1540 Committee. In the Ninth Programme of Work (1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011), the Committee established and subsequently maintained working groups for: monitoring and national implementation; assistance; cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001); and transparency and media outreach. The 1540 Committee is assisted by a Group of Experts. The experts and its coordinator are appointed by the Secretary-General after the Committee has approved their recruitment.

Biological Weapons Convention / Implementation Support Unit (BWC/ISU)

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/16C37624830EDAE5C12572BC0044DFC1?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/16C37624830EDAE5C12572BC0044DFC1?OpenDocument)

The BWC/ISU provides support and assistance for administration, national implementation, confidence-building measures and achieving universality. The Unit administers the database for assistance requests, and offers and facilitates associated exchanges of information. It also supports States Parties' efforts to implement the decisions and recommendations of the review conference.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

www.ctbto.org

Joining CTBTO provides numerous benefits on disarmament and development, including access to data from the international monitoring system (IMS), opportunities for national experts to build their capacity and the use of CTBTO civil and scientific applications of the data and technologies for environmental forecast and disaster preparedness. CTBT IMS stations have been established on the Cook Islands, with infrasound systems in Australia, to detect and warn in real time of tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and meteorological phenomena. The stations also research icebergs and ice shelves, and oceans and marine life.

Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

www.gcsp.ch

GCSP has worked jointly with the IPU, the University of London Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The Centre has compiled a comprehensive table of bilateral, regional and multilateral arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament instruments. The table may be a relevant source of information for parliamentarians.

Non-resident embassies / High Commissions

These missions can provide sample legislation, advice and support. They can help with programmes to develop, train and build the capacity of legislators and legislative staff working on 1540 issues.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

www.opcw.org

The OPCW is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention. It ensures a credible and transparent regime for verifying the destruction of chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence, while also protecting legitimate national security and proprietary interests. The OPCW assists with national implementation of the Convention and encourages international cooperation for the peaceful use of chemistry against chemical weapons. It also promotes universal membership of the OPCW by facilitating international cooperation and national capacity-building.

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

www.forumsec.org

The PIF is an intergovernmental organization that aims to enhance cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. It was founded in 1971 and currently has 18 members. The Forum's *Pacific Vision* aspires to a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives. The PIF works towards this vision by fostering cooperation between governments and collaboration with international agencies, as well as by representing the interests of its members.

UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)

www.unodc.org

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The three pillars of the UNODC work programme are:

- Field-based technical cooperation projects designed to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism;
- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions;
- Normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of relevant international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD) in Asia-Pacific

unrcpd.org

UNRCPD assists countries in the region to achieve their peace, security and disarmament goals by: providing meaningful support; coordinating subregional, regional and international work; and sharing information on global and regional activities. Member States of the Asia-Pacific region mutually agree the Centre's mandate, which is to substantively support and coordinate the implementation of regional peace and disarmament initiatives whenever requested. UNRCPD works in close partnership with regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society organizations. The Centre focuses on three main areas: building capacity and giving technical assistance; creating and participating in dialogue forums; and engaging in outreach and advocacy on disarmament issues.

Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)

www.vertic.org

VERTIC is an independent, non-profit-making charitable organization. Since being established in 1986, it has supported the development, implementation and verification of international agreements and initiatives. It provides this support through research and analysis, assistance and training, dissemination of information, and interaction with governmental, diplomatic, technical, scientific and non-governmental communities. VERTIC focuses on developing and applying review, verification, monitoring, reporting and compliance mechanisms, and on national implementation measures.

World Customs Organization (WCO)

www.wcoomd.org

The WCO represents 183 customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98 per cent of world trade. As the global centre of customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international customs community. The WCO develops international standards, fosters cooperation and builds capacity to facilitate legitimate trade, secure fair revenue collection, protect society, and provide leadership, guidance and support to customs administrations.

World Health Organization (WHO)

extranet.who.int/sph/about-sph

WHO's vision is a world in which all peoples attain the highest possible level of health. Its mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. The Organization's goals are to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and to provide a billion more people with better health and well-being. As part of its wide-ranging work, WHO established a Strategic Partnership Programme. It is designed to monitor the health-security capacity of countries by: helping them identify needs, gaps and priorities in national, provincial and local health security; mapping and sharing information on global health security investment and resources; and by creating a platform for collaborating on global health security.

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Inter-Parliamentary Union Regional Seminar on Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540

18-20 September 2019
Wellington, New Zealand

Joint Statement

- The New Zealand House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) hosted a regional seminar on “Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540” during 18-20 September 2019, in Wellington, New Zealand attended by parliamentarians from the Republic of Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Kingdom of Tonga, and Republic of Vanuatu.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Group of Experts to the 1540 Committee, the Caribbean Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization, the World Health Organization; government officials from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Romania; and civil society organisations the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre attended as observers and speakers.
- The parliamentarians held constructive discussions on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and on its relevance to the Pacific Region.
- The parliamentarians **acknowledged** the crucial role of parliamentarians in supporting implementation of UNSCR 1540 through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions and in being champions for the resolution within their States.
- The parliamentarians **highlighted** the synergies between UNSCR 1540 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **recognized** the value of UNSCR 1540 implementation in achieving relevant actions under the Boe Declaration on regional security and other regional and global priorities for sustainable development, health, safety and security.
- The parliamentarians **acknowledged** the value in contextualizing the approach to fulfilling obligations under the resolution in the Pacific due to state specificities, and **emphasized** the benefits in maximizing efficiencies and strengthening existing governance and enforcement structures and legislative frameworks in implementing UNSCR 1540.
- The parliamentarians **agreed on** the need for further dialogue and parliamentary engagement at the regional level on issues related to UNSCR 1540, and on the need to further build parliamentary capacity to carry out their functions in the context of the resolution.
- The parliamentarians **expressed** their desire that the IPU will continue to promote and support parliamentary engagement on and build capacity for cooperation with UNSCR 1540 in the Pacific region.
- The parliamentarians **welcome** the possibility to engage with regional governance structures, including the regional coordination mechanism for the Boe Declaration, on implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Acknowledgements

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IPU also thanks the House of Representatives of New Zealand, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the 1540 Committee for their support in the organisation of this seminar.



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