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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**RIGHT OF REPLY BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA  
NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL**

7 June 2023

**Subject: United Nations Security Council resolution 1540**

In the interest of saving time, the Russian delegation has circulated a written right of reply to the statement by the delegation of the United States of America at the 1048th plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on 7 June 2023.

The delegation of the Russian Federation emphasizes that the attempts by the United States to drag United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 into the context of the special military operation are counterproductive both for the FSC and for the implementation of the resolution itself. Instead of promoting this Security Council decision as a unique tool for co-operation to achieve non-proliferation goals, the United States has chosen to use the resolution – contrary to its letter and spirit – to attack an individual country. And this is being done not even in the 1540 Committee, but in the FSC. The United States does not seem to be able to see the counterproductive nature and possible consequences of this approach.

We have been observing for many years how the United States' behaviour on non-proliferation platforms has become blatantly destructive. We all know the outcome – enormous and potentially irreparable damage has been done to the global arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. The United States is now trying to assume the role of prosecutor and judge in relation to resolution 1540. All this is part of a broad strategy to establish an inherently confrontational system of global dominance.

We would advise the United States not to get carried away with such endeavours but to deal more seriously with the implementation of resolution 1540 in the OSCE format. There continues to be tremendous scope for co-operation and interaction among all the Organization's participating States. Unfortunately, we have not seen any progress in this area recently. Europe's work on the resolution is beginning to stall compared to other countries. If the United States attaches such importance to resolution 1540, one might ask in particular why no efforts are being made to honour the OSCE decision to hold a workshop in 2023 on the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution.

It is clear that the absurd allegations made against us by the United States have nothing to do with resolution 1540 – its scope and objectives are very specific, they are clearly spelled out in the resolution itself and have nothing to do with what the United States is trying to impute to us.

Resolution 1540 is aimed at preventing weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors. States are obliged to adopt a set of legislative and law enforcement measures at the national level to control the circulation and security of materials related to weapons of mass destruction. In doing so, they determine for themselves the implementation of the resolution at the national level, without any external monitoring or assessments. Neither the 1540 Committee (established to monitor implementation of the resolution and to co-ordinate efforts to provide technical assistance to countries in its implementation) nor anyone else is authorized to pass verdicts on whether or not a country is complying with the resolution. There is no oversight role, much less an attributive one, with respect to resolution 1540. And there is certainly no special role for the United States.

It would be more logical to accuse the United States itself of aggression, violating obligations related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, building up destabilizing accumulations of weapons and refusing to settle disputes peacefully, since it has been directly or indirectly involved in unleashing most of the military conflicts of recent times. The accusations relating to the import of weapons from “rogue” countries (no matter what the United States may argue, neither Russia nor these mythical exporters so “designated” by the United States are non-State actors) and to the transfer by Russia of arms and ammunition to “non-State formations” in the zone of the special military operation are blatantly being pulled from thin air. There is no way of dragging resolution 1540 into this context.

Overall, these stunts in the FSC once again demonstrate the United States’ true intentions regarding the development of the resolution and the activities of the 1540 Committee. These “approaches” confirm the correctness of, and absence of an alternative to, our consistent policy of preventing the dilution of the scope of resolution 1540 and emphasize the unique nature of the resolution (a tool for co-operation to achieve a common goal, not for imposing sanctions or punishment) and the need to preserve the current mandate of the 1540 Committee.

Our US colleagues also voted in favour of the resolution, so the United States, by dragging the resolution into a discussion on “non-core” subjects, is discrediting itself and its actions in this area in the first place.