

UN Security Council 1540 Committee International Student Essay Contest:
The Finalists
September 2016

Following are the abstracts of the eighteen essays judged to be finalists by a group of international judges and the Stimson Center. The full essays were submitted to a panel of judges directly involved in the work of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee for its decision on the top five. Abstracts have been edited lightly for clarity and some consistency and are presented in alphabetical order by finalist last name.

Implementing Country: The Russian Federation

Student: Adrian Alvarado

University: Université de Lyon, Lyon, France

Sponsoring Professor: Pascal Marchand

This action plan will focus—at the national level—on reinsuring, creating, and optimizing organizational standard operating procedures and on developing an oversight system within the Russian Federation. Special attention will be paid to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear safety and awareness in civilian infrastructures (hospitals, private laboratories, universities, and research centers). The Russian Federation will offer implementation assistance on nuclear and chemical safety to key allies and partners on a global scale that includes the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The capacity of multilateral initiatives with Russian participation will be strengthened (e.g., the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention).

The proposal is divided into three sections. First, a strategic option memo summarizes the Russian Federation's challenges related to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and recommends the most effective strategic option for an action plan during the period from 2017 through 2021. Second, the proposal focuses on the national implementation supporting Resolution 1540. Within the scope of political and financial feasibility, new actions will address current legal and organizational gaps in order to reduce nuclear, chemical, and biological risks. Third, the action plan for 2017-2021 underlines the competencies that can be offered by the Russian Federation to other states. The Russian Federation will pursue international assistance in three innovative components: 1) nuclear and chemical assistance in CIS space, 2) common security and export controls in the EEU, and 3) other bilateral and multilateral assistance schemes. Compliance with proposed actions will help to measure success of the action plan for the period up to 2021.

Implementing Country: Morocco

Student: Samir Chaouki

University: Faculty of Sciences, Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco

Sponsoring Professor: Amina Kharchaf

Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) constitute a real threat to international peace and security; hence the necessity of the fight against proliferation. The danger of these weapons is even greater if they are developed in high-tension areas. Considering the geographical location of Morocco, the country must take actions to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and reduce the risk of WMDs. Therefore, it is highly recommended that Morocco face the problem of proliferation by following a five-year plan of action, encompassing four points:

1. Improve knowledge on proliferation. The fight against proliferation must begin first by deepening our knowledge about proliferation and the degree of danger and risk it poses to the world's population.
2. Increase effectiveness of prevention. The fight against proliferation necessitates a high level of vigilance, which requires major coordination and a strong commitment from all stakeholders.
3. Improve protection. We cannot address the fight against proliferation without mentioning protection measures needed to strengthen the defense structure.
4. Enhance cooperation at regional and international levels. The fight against proliferation requires a strengthening of the international nonproliferation regime and cooperation with allies, neighbors, and the United Nations.

To ensure the success of this plan, Morocco needs the political will that is the basis for any decision. Furthermore, it will need help from other countries with experience in the field, including by opening up regional and international collaborations.

Implementing Country: Burkina Faso

Student: Jean-Annet de Saint Rapt

University: Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Sponsoring Professor: Michel Liégeois

Burkina Faso understands the necessity of preventing the proliferation of WMDs and therefore seeks to fully implement Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Considering the efforts already made, Burkina Faso intends to have a particular focus on border gaps and better import-export-transit controls. The regional alliance "G5-Sahel" will be a pivotal structure for coordinated actions within the region, which shares common issues regarding the proliferation of WMDs.

The action plan consists of five programs with different time frames for completion. Objectives are designed to match WMD proliferation issues per Resolution 1540 and implementation, security, and development prospects with regard to Burkina Faso's domestic political agenda.

Implementing Country: Tunisia

Student: Enrique de Vega Gonzalez

University: Gutierrez Mellado Institute, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, Spain.

Sponsoring Professor: Vicente Garrido Rebolledo

This National Implementation Action Plan aims to update and complement the 2004 Implementing Report in light of the country's current strategic paradigm. The plan establishes five objectives for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). It calls for the update of key legislation as part of the process of completing the democratic transition of the country. At the international level, given that Tunisia is already party to the relevant treaties, the plan aims to develop leadership in different initiatives. Also, it establishes a comprehensive approach to strengthen the physical security of all chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) and related material through the creation of a control and accountability matrix of critical infrastructure to reinforce physical protection, with this matrix fully accessible to the 1540 Committee online. The action plan also focuses on the challenge of border control. Last but not least, and perhaps going beyond the scope of Resolution 1540, the action plan aims to enhance response capabilities for CBRN incidents.

The implementation of these objectives will be coordinated by the National Security Council (NSC), given its cross-cutting nature. A WMD Study Committee, subordinate to the NSC, will be created to provide technical assistance to the NSC as well as continuous monitoring. Tunisia may seek assistance for the full implementation of this plan as part of a cooperative security approach. However, given its advantageous position within its region, it is also ready to assist its neighbors.

Implementing Country: Kenya

Student: Brian Machua Gitura

University: School of Arts and Humanities, Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya

Sponsoring Professor: Philip Mwanika

Kenya has been subject to a number of terrorist attacks and therefore well understands the need to prevent non-state actors from attempting to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

With terrorism one of the major security challenges of the decade, there is a growing international demand to safeguard nuclear, chemical, and biological materials. In addition, the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. This should be sufficient motivation for states to increase vigilance in the global war on terror by strengthening existing laws and establishing domestic controls that deal with nonproliferation.

Kenya faces many challenges related to nonproliferation, including porous borders; a unique geographical position with a large coastline; and neighboring states that are engaged in civil war or are failed states, such as South Sudan and Somalia. These conditions make Kenya a perfect target for non-state actors to use the country as an entry point into East and Central Africa, with the aim of transporting illicit weapons—including nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons—to areas of civil unrest or to terrorist groups. In that respect, the five-year action plan for the nation of Kenya to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) factors in developing legislation and enhancing domestic controls as well as increasing regional and international efforts toward the nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Implementing Country: Uzbekistan

Student: Marren Haneberg

University: Brigham Young University, Provo, United States of America

Sponsoring Professor: Elizabeta Jevtic-Somlai

This plan includes the following priorities to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) by 2021:

- 1) Conduct personnel reliability checks of border control workers by April 2017.
- 2) Create a control list of hazardous materials banned from crossing Uzbekistan's borders by March 2019.
- 3) Distribute a hazardous materials control list to border security by September 2019.
- 4) Enforce inland security from WMD materials by training health inspection

- employees and recruiting them to attend large events by December 2017.
- 5) Complete a border control post on the Tajikistan border by December 2020.
 - 6) Assign biometric passports to citizens by July 2018.
 - 7) Train border personnel to recognize hazardous materials starting June 2017.
 - 8) Train prosecutor's office and judiciary employees to recognize crimes related to the financing of terrorism by December 2017.
 - 9) Coordinate the border control of the Sokh exclave with Kyrgyzstan by September 2018.
 - 10) Implement UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178 to reinforce Resolution 1540 by April 2017.
 - 11) Propose this action plan to UN entities to identify the nationalities of stateless persons within Uzbekistan's borders by May 2018.
 - 12) Implement a system that prioritizes returned migrant Uzbek workers for government employment by January 2020.
 - 13) Reduce corruption among passport workers through increased salaries on an ongoing basis.
 - 14) Share customs lists and assist with border security training for Turkmenistan and Tajikistan on an ongoing basis.
 - 15) Draft legislation declaring WMD possession and provision to be a crime, and legally commit Uzbekistan to disarmament and nonproliferation by April 2017.

Implementing Country: Tanzania

Student: Abdalah Abdulrahman Kileo

University: University of Fukui, Fukui, Japan

Sponsoring Professor: Iddi Mkilaha

The threat posed by non-state actors, such as from terrorist, extremist, and illicit network groups, can affect states economically, socially, and politically. The threat of WMDs has a significant effect on national, regional, and international peace and security, given that terrorist groups have caused death, destruction, and disorder of a very high magnitude. In response, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1540 on April 28, 2004.

Full implementation of the obligations of Resolution 1540 will provide a considerable chance of mitigating the threat of non-state actors acquiring WMDs. Therefore, UN Security Council Resolution 1810 (2008), paragraph 4, and Resolution 1977 (2011), paragraph 8, have encouraged all member states, on a voluntary basis, to develop national action plans which map the priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of Resolution 1540. The following key areas have been discussed in this action plan for Tanzania:

- a. Threat, risk and vulnerability of the country.
- b. Current status of implementation and the gaps.
- c. Recommendations on the best ways and means to implement the various WMD commitments.

Implementing Country: United States of America

Student: Chase Scott Milligan

University: Stanford University, California, United States of America

Sponsoring Professor: Siegfried S. Hecker

The US government must take several steps within the next five years to support the 1540 Committee, help implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and decrease WMD risks both at home and abroad. First, the US government needs to confront new and continuing nuclear, biological, and chemical threats. Focus should especially be put on new advances in gene-editing tools and the gain of function research in the biotechnology industry that could contribute to the likelihood of a global-scale bioterrorist attack. Second, the US must continue to enhance cyber security measures at critical facilities, such as nuclear power plants, and confront new technological advancements that enable dangerous terrorist activity. Third, the US needs to utilize new social media platforms to emphasize public education and outreach to increase WMD awareness and combat terrorist activity.

Implementing Country: Sudan

Student: Abeer Salih Abdalhafeez Mohamed

University: University of Ritsumeikan, Kyoto, Japan

Sponsoring Professor: Hideak Ohta

The threat of WMDs) falling into the hands of non-state actors, through means such as the black market, illicit trafficking, and dual-use of technology, is real, and no country is exempt from it. This particular threat triggered the United Nations to take global measures against it via Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The resolution encourages all states to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans for submission to the 1540 Committee, and to identify the most pressing risks to peace and security as well as the ways and means to address them.

Therefore, this action plan is designed first to address the risks by outlining the threat posed by non-state actors such as terrorist groups, extremists, illicit traffic, and rebel groups. In the first of four parts, it advises Sudan on how and when to implement Resolution 1540 in order to mitigate the threat of WMDs while preserving the benefits from technologies. It sets four

priorities: policy development, legislative framework and law enforcement; capacity building for both materials and human resources; domestic and international cooperation and coordination; and prevention, detection, response and awareness.

The second part highlights the achievements in implementation for each of the priorities. The third and fourth parts detail a strategic action plan on how to mitigate the challenges resulting from implementation, and include the required resources, responsible institutions, and time frame.

The four priorities are a continuous process and each part needs feedback through audit or assessment reports for efficient implementation.

Implementing Country: Burkina Faso

Student: Delwendé Nabayaogo

University: University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Sponsoring Professor: Dimitar Dimitrov

The possession of WMDs by some countries and the risk posed by their falling into the wrong hands induce a real fear in human beings. Burkina Faso has been attacked by terrorist groups many times using conventional weapons such as guns and explosives, and cannot avoid fearing terrorists' ability to obtain WMDs. This issue informs the country's commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1540, adopted in 2004, which appears to be an adequate instrument in fighting against the proliferation of WMDs. The security of Burkina Faso, as well as other nations, underlines the need to implement Resolution 1540 progressively, but fully, through an adequate action plan.

Implementing Country: Nigeria

Student: Christo Idowu Odeyemi

University: Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

This five-year action plan uses operative paragraphs (OPs) 2, 3, and 8 of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) to examine the extent to which Nigeria has sought to implement the resolution—an international legal instrument for preventing terrorists from acquiring materials and technologies related to WMDs. The plan discusses what is needed to be done by Nigerian officials tasked with implementation, why, and by when. It adds value by informing future meetings between the 1540 Committee and Nigerian decision-makers. Such meetings are crucial for 1540 domestication.

Findings show unsatisfactory progress due to a lack of legislation guiding some aspects of OPs 2, 3, and 8. Because Resolution 1540 has multiple objectives, to prioritize these three

paragraphs is to diminish the others. Yet these priorities are important because they indicate what Nigeria has and has not done. They also regulate the prevention of terror attacks not at the moment they occur, but when they are still in the planning stages. To make leadership roles more productive and thus better serve Nigeria, decision-makers should:

- Draft a 1540-focused bill (OP 2).
- Harmonize existing legislation for securing weapons, materials, and technologies of mass destruction (OP 3a).
- Establish programs (such as “speaking books” and free public transportation) that inform students/public about their obligations under 1540 (OP 8d).
- Sustain continuous dialogue with the 1540 Committee.
- Establish a 1540-based national authority.
- Note that some Nigerian newspapers provide a truer picture of performance evaluation than the oversight agency in question.

Implementing Country: United States of America

Student: Kyle Pilutti

University: Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California, United States of America

In order to continue to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and decrease the risk of WMDs, the United States needs to place a high priority on international assistance and dialogue. Through a series of workshops, tabletop exercises, and Track II dialogues over the next five years, greater efforts can be placed on filling in the remaining holes in the nonproliferation regime. Non-state actor acquisition of WMDs poses a severe risk, regardless of the location of origin, and thus demands international cooperation to prevent it. The workshops and discussions will focus on working through the remaining issues related to nuclear material, chemical and biological weapons, export controls, and proliferation financing. The goal of each dialogue or exercise is to assist other countries in their implementations of Resolution 1540 as well as to create stronger international networks surrounding this issue.

Implementing Country: Qatar

Students: Landon Elliot Poe & Sreelekshmi Rajeswari

University: University of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom

Sponsoring Professor: Elisabete A. Silva

Qatar has always expressed extremely strong support for compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (Qatar-United Nations 2011). In past national reports and UN matrices, Qatar has progressed continually since the resolution was introduced in 2004. While many countries in

the Gulf have established national visions like Qatar's to create sustainable economies and improve the quality of life of their citizens, the imminent FIFA World Cup that will be hosted by Qatar in 2022 presents a catalyst for change, if not at least a medium-term deadline with high stakes for the country's national reputation. This primary incentive to build capacity presents many opportunities to increase compliance with Resolution 1540 at no additional cost.

Implementing Country: India

Student: Mujtaba Rafid Rafa

University: Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The following action plan has been made in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and addresses what India should do for the nonproliferation of WMDs and related materials. This plan mostly focuses on the security measures to be taken for the safety of nuclear weapons and radioactive materials. The plan proposes three new committees to be formed. Two are domestic: one for maintaining safety standards, the other for export control and maintaining industry-government relations when it comes to trade legislation. The third is a regional committee for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

This action plan urges the Indian government and respective authorities to work as a facilitator for industry. It recommends that India create centralized nuclear waste storage and carry out research programs in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It also portrays India's role in nonproliferation as a member of several international and regional organizations and committees, including the Missile Technology Control Regime, which India has joined recently. It also covers what kind of assistance is needed from which countries and organizations, including the United States, Australia, the IAEA, and the World Health Organization.

As technologies are rapidly changing, the importance of a strong cyber security system, the effective use of the Indian Environmental Radiation Monitoring Network at all the borders, and the necessity of controlling such expertise and knowledge are discussed. This action plan also includes a small section on biological and chemical weapons and materials, as India has destroyed its chemical weapon stockpiles and there is no evidence that India is developing biological weapons.

Implementing Country: Turkmenistan

Student: Hannah Rifkin

University: Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, United States of America

During year one, Turkmenistan should adopt the European Union Dual Use Export Trade Control regime. Also during year one, Turkmenistan should request assistance to buy the necessary surveillance equipment to secure its borders, hire more border patrol guards, and send senior and promising border patrol guards to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan. By year three, Turkmenistan should centralize export control responsibility to one ministry. By year five, Turkmenistan should ensure that at least one additional group of border patrol guards have attended training at the OSCE Border Management Staff College and that internal training has been developed to ensure that effective practices learned in Tajikistan are not lost if funding is jeopardized in the future. A push toward transparency must accompany all efforts to better comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Implementing Country: United States of America

Student: Jonathan Roberts

University: Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana, United States of America

This essay recommends the most suitable path forward for the United States and its part in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The recommendations for the US government follow a tiered approach suggesting the most effective role for the US at the UN, international, and national levels. All recommendations follow common themes noted in many documents found on the website of the 1540 Committee, establishing a central direction and providing consolidation of effort. The UN-level recommendation advocates that the US submit a proposal before the UN Security Council to expand the role of the 1540 Committee to allow for a proactive effort rather than a reactive effort that relies on the voluntary actions of individual states. The second recommendation of the proposal suggests the expansion and revision of national visits to allow for advanced preparation and participation of potential assistance providers as a way to both expand and focus their roles. The international-level recommendation suggests that the US lead the way in establishing a centralized nonproliferation organization that would consolidate the efforts of states and NGOs capable of providing assistance. The organization would require minimal resources and set the stage for the creation of proactive comprehensive solutions for states requesting assistance rather than relying on uncoordinated voluntary piecemeal approaches. The final recommendation takes place at the national level and suggests that the US consolidate and unify its own nonproliferation organizations to provide the most effective and comprehensive solutions.

Implementing Country: Japan

Student: Natsumi Saito

University: Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all states in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, together with their means of delivery, which “constitutes a threat to international peace and security.” However, the effectiveness of this resolution relies on each state, since it is up to each state whether or not to implement the resolution. In this action plan, Japan will assist a specific country, Libya, to ensure its sustainable system of implementation of Resolution 1540. After Libya promised to abandon WMDs in 1992, it took actions to prevent the proliferation of such weapons, including the approval of Resolution 1540. The problem is that Libya does not have the capability to implement the obligations of this resolution. Compared to states like Israel and Iran, which reject implementation of the resolution, Libya is not of great concern. Even so, dealing with the problems in Libya is important. Upon the conclusion of this action plan, Japan will be in charge of making the report to show how Libya succeeded. Success in Libya would likely act as a driving force and a model for other states to implement Resolution 1540. Accordingly, this action plan, proposed by Japan, aims to show states which reject implementation of Resolution 1540 the merits of approving it, and to raise the priority of taking actions in these states.

Implementing Country: Chile

Student: Exequiel Salinas

University: University of Santiago of Chile, Santiago, Chile

Sponsoring Professor: Rodrigo Alvarez

This essay addresses a national action plan that develops four basic lines of work for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) during a period of three years. Its preparation has used official documents, approved and published by the 1540 Committee, about Chile, and thus this plan stems from the result of diagnosis of gaps in the documents of Chile delivered to the 1540 Committee. Each line of work is elaborate and implies the participation and coordination of different actors (institutional, international, and experts), as well as the assistance of the Regional Centre of the United Nations for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. Additionally, the plan considers the necessary assistance of other states and organizations for each line of work.