

2016 UNSCR 1540 WMD International Student Essay Contest

Resolution 1540: The United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1540 in 2004 in the context of the grave concern of the international community about the threat of illicit trafficking of nuclear material and technology and the threat of terrorism. Of concern was the possibility that non-state actors, in particular for terrorist purposes, might acquire, develop, manufacture, or traffic in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the means of delivering them. Resolution 1540 used the authority of the Security Council to obligate states to take steps intended to keep these threats from being realized.

This year, the Security Council is reviewing the implementation of this resolution over the past five years – and as part of that effort is reaching out to undergraduate and advanced degree students worldwide to bring the brightest minds to bear on the challenge of countering the global threat posed by WMDs.

“The world has already seen several recent cases of the use of WMD by non-state actors, with Daesh using sarin gas in Iraq and Syria. This adds to the urgency of 1540 implementation.”

Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi

1540 Committee Chair and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

The Contest: Students planning to participate will select a country for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 and create a comprehensive five-year action plan. This 2,500-word action plan *will advise government on what it needs to do, why, and by when in order to implement this resolution and decrease WMD risks*. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to participate.

This unique opportunity is a chance for students to compete worldwide for self-recognition and recognition for their respective universities. Participating in this contest is an opportunity for students to contribute and provide actionable plans to combat the pressing matter of proliferation. For more details, please visit <http://www.stimson.org/1540contest>.

Award Details: The U.N. Security Council will select the top winners. These essays will help inform the 2016 Comprehensive Review of U.N. Security Council resolution 1540.

The first-place and second-place winners will be flown to the United States to present a summary of his/her recommendations at a U.N.-sponsored awards ceremony hosted at Harvard University on September 30, 2016. These top two winners will also be invited to the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels on November 3-4, 2016, and will receive a \$2,000 and \$1,000 award, respectively, from the [Washington Foreign Law Society](#) (WFLS). The next three top essays will receive \$500 awards from WFLS. A finalist will have the opportunity to publish their recommendations on the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' *Voices of Tomorrow* feature, and be eligible to win the Leonard M. Rieser Award. The Stimson Center will publish the top five essays in a limited edition report and on its website. **All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on August 5, 2016.** Winners will be announced in early September.

Submission Details: If you have any questions, please contact 1540Contest@Stimson.org, or Rose Morrissy at RMorrissy@Stimson.org.

Contest Supporters



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