

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540



April 2004

The United Nations Security Council unanimously approved resolution 1540 in which it is affirmed that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their delivery systems, is a threat to international peace and security.

COUNTRIES WERE FORCED TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING NON-STATE ACTORS* WHO SEEK TO

DEVELOP

ACQUIRE

MANUFACTURE

OWN

TRANSPORT

TRANSFER

USE



Nuclear



Biological



Chemical

WEAPONS

**Non-State actor: individual or entity, not acting under the lawful authority of any State*

WHY WAS THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED?



Attacks such as the sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway in 1995, the discovery of the illegal market for nuclear material by the AQ Khan network, and the political context generated by the need to respond to the 9/11 attacks motivated efforts to prevent terrorism.

In order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their potential use in terrorist actions that could generate large-scale damage, the States committed to work to counter the trade and circulation of weapons of mass destruction.