

Innovating the Regime: UN Security Council Resolution 1540

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UNSCR 1540 (2004)

- WMD proliferation *per se* threat to peace and security
- Universal obligation to establish domestic controls
- Universal obligation to adopt and enforce laws that prohibit the involvement of non-state actors in proliferation

- Deviation from consent- and treaty-based nonproliferation regime
- Imposition of far-reaching generic nonproliferation obligations

Potential

UNSCR 1540 would ...

- ... make proliferation more difficult and less attractive
- ... facilitate the dismantlement of transnational proliferation networks
- ... create momentum for other initiatives

Slow pace of implementation

- Ambition of the resolution
- Capacity gaps
- Ownership and legitimacy gaps

Three lessons learned

On what conditions are
quasi-legislative resolutions
a powerful innovation to the
nonproliferation regime?

Lesson One

Readiness to engage
in capacity-building
is fundamental.

Lesson Two

Ability to create
a sense of ownership
is fundamental.

Lesson Three

Acknowledgment of
embeddedness in overall
nonproliferation architecture
is fundamental.