

Briefing of the Security Council by the Chair of the 1540 Committee

H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorenty Solíz

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

16 March 2017

As this is the first time I have had the privilege of addressing the Council in my capacity as Chair of the 1540 Committee I would like to say how honoured I am to have assumed my tenure of the Committee in January this year. I am pleased to have the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the work of the 1540 Committee in its task of overseeing the implementation of resolution 1540.

Flowing from the outcome of the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the previous five years, resolution 2325 was adopted on 15 December 2016. The Committee intends to build on the momentum imparted by this reinforcing resolution through the Committee's Programme of Work agreed for 1 February 2017-31 January 2018. In that programme the Committee agreed that it "should continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ...".

A Programme of Work for 2017 has been agreed upon by the Committee and will enable significant progress towards a more effective implementation of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). In this effort, the Committee considers that a clear understanding of the challenges faced by States in the effective implementation of the resolution is needed. In accordance with Operative Paragraph 11 of the resolution 2325 (2016), there is also a need to develop an approach to implementation and reporting that takes into account the specificity of States, inter alia, with respect to their ability to manufacture and export related materials, with a view to prioritizing efforts and resources where they are most needed without affecting the need for comprehensive

implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This point is a key element in the effort to seek more effective implementation if it is to have any chance of success. The Committee's next direct interaction with a State will take place next week. A 1540 Committee delegation (1540 Committee experts) will visit El Salvador to support the development of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan.

The Programme of Work for 2017 stipulates *inter alia* the following elements on resolution implementation by the States:

With the objective of achieving universal reporting as soon as possible, continue to strengthen efforts to encourage the remaining 16 Member States that have not yet submitted their first report to do so, including by engaging in dialogue with those States;

Continue to encourage Member States to submit additional information regarding implementation;

Encourage the expansion and undertake initiatives to strengthen the capacity of national points of contact;

Continue to encourage States to identify and voluntarily report effective national practices in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), and continue the practice of sharing compilations of effective best practice periodically;

Encourage States, to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004).

As Council members are aware, there are means to request assistance formally through the Committee to help build capacity, where needed, for implementation. This assistance can be provided by States with the ability to do so and by the relevant international organisations. As mentioned in the final document of the 2016 Comprehensive Review, since 2004, 56 States and two

regional organizations have requested assistance through the Committee. Of these requests, 17 came from African States, 22 from States in the Asia-Pacific region, 6 from Eastern Europe and 11 from Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee recognises that the system for the provision of assistance to those in need requires improvement. According to its sixteenth programme of work, the Committee will engage its working group on assistance in improving the assistance mechanism. One focus is the ongoing revision of its assistance template which shall be finalized by end March 2017, in order to better support States in developing more detailed and effective assistance requests. According to its programme of work the Committee will also consider ways to better provide assistance, especially as a real-time response to requests made during dialogue with States, such as through securing and using additional resources, including, potentially, the use of the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. The Committee also plans on reviewing all requests, offers and related assistance programmes with inter alia a view to develop more effective matching strategies. As another part of this effort I ask those Council members that have made offers of assistance to take a lead in reviewing them as it is clear from the offers currently published that some need updating. I pay tribute to those States that have responded to requests for assistance and encourage others, with the capacity to do so, to do likewise. The record shows that, generally, the most relevant international organisations have responded well to requests for assistance. I should mention in particular, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO). Regional organisations have also played their part. I should mention in particular the African Union that hosted an event in 2016 dedicated to matching assistance providers directly with those requesting assistance. This was the first

time that States that had requested assistance were brought together with potential providers, thereby facilitating a genuine “matchmaking” platform. Of the 16 African States that had requested assistance, 12 participated in the conference. This effort showed practical results and proved the value of the Committee’s commitment in 2016 to adopting a regional approach to the provision of assistance. I hope to this is continued in other regions this year and next.

As I mentioned earlier cooperation between States is a key element in promoting effective implementation. In this regard, I would like to point to valuable elements, including the national 1540 Points of Contact. In those States where they have been designated, not only do they play an important role internally as a focal point for national stakeholders in the implementation of the resolution, they are also valuable to promoting cooperation between States and interaction with the Committee. Today, ninety nine States submitted their 1540 Points of Contact to the Committee. Since last briefing, Algeria, Bahamas, Costa Rica and Mauritania was added. Some countries updated.

The Committee supports the initiatives taken by some States to host training courses for national 1540 Points of Contact. Indeed resolution 2325 (2016), in its operative paragraph 6, “urges the Committee to continue to undertake initiatives to strengthen the capacity of such Points of Contact to assist on the implementation of the resolution, upon request of States, including through the continuation on a regional basis of the Committee’s Point of Contact Training Programme”.

Further, I understand that Morocco is planning to host a training course for French-speaking African States later this year. At the same time I must also

acknowledge the important contribution that international organisations have made by providing instructors for these training courses.

The Committee finds this direct and practical support to enhancing implementation of the resolution most encouraging.

States are making important contributions in other ways too. For example, a regional 1540 seminar was conducted over the past two days hosted by Pakistan in Islamabad. Representatives from 15 States of Central, East and South Asia, along with representatives from the four of the international organisations most relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) participated. I salute Pakistan's initiative in proposing and hosting this conference - and setting a good example by covering the in-country costs. The seminar was an opportunity to promote awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among the policy makers. It highlighted also the national efforts by participating States and identifies challenges and opportunities in relation to regional conditions. It contributed also to identify opportunities for collaboration in terms of implementation, law enforcement export controls and related matters and matching assistance needs with offers. In order to demonstrate its interest in this important event, the Committee decided to second two members of its Group of Experts.

As for my own country, Bolivia will host a regional conference on 1540 implementation in October this year for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In this context, on behalf of the Committee, I sincerely thank those States that have made substantial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities directly in support of 1540

implementation. Without these contributions the Committee would be severely hampered in fulfilling its mandate in overseeing the implementation of the resolution and, in particular, in facilitating capacity-building where it is most needed. Canada, Germany, Japan, Spain and Sweden have joined the list of contributors. The contributions from these and other countries are essential to the Committee being able to fulfil its Programme of Work.

The Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, stand ready to cooperate with and, as requested, to facilitate assistance to States with their 1540 implementation efforts that will contribute to achieving our common objective to prevent the catastrophic use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

I am grateful for your attention.

END