



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

QUARTERLY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

December 2015

In my last quarterly message, I noted that revision of the matrices of Member States was on the verge of completion. I am now pleased to report further progress. The vast majority are now approved by the Committee, and published on the Committee's website. The 1540 matrices constitute a unique data base of measures taken by Member States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their related materials, and means of delivery to non-State actors. They will form a vital component in support of our 2016 Comprehensive Review.

Of note this quarter was the convening in late November 2015 of the fourth in a series of annual engagements with industry hosted by Germany – the “Wiesbaden Process”. Industry is a critical partner to governments in the effective implementation of resolution 1540, and such a process can contribute to building up a network within industry to counter the proliferation of WMD to non-State actors, including terrorists. It is constructive that in the spirit of the “Wiesbaden Process” the Republic of Korea and India have offered to host such events in 2016 on a regional basis in Asia.

Since my last message, the Committee and the Group of Experts participated at the end of October in the maritime nuclear security exercise held by Morocco and Spain in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This high-level, international event helped to strengthen States' capacities to secure nuclear and other radioactive materials appropriately to prevent their falling into the hands of those that would use them with malice. It also added strength to our increased partnership with the IAEA. Morocco and Spain plan to evaluate the exercise and publish the lessons learned. These can inform other States of how they might best enhance their own security programmes. The exercise was a good example of the way that international cooperation can lead to better implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In this regard, the Committee will participate in the IAEA's Nuclear Security Conference being held in Vienna from 5 to 9 December 2016. Not only will that help strengthen even further our relationship with the IAEA but, as it takes place just after the completion of the 2016 Comprehensive Review, it presents an excellent opportunity at a high level global event to call attention to its outcomes. This should also help to demonstrate why resolution 1540 (2004) is recognised as an integral part of the international non-proliferation and security architecture.

The Committee has also engaged with others. The Chair of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and other representatives of the arrangement briefed the Committee in

September, and as a follow-up, the new Chair of MTCR, Ambassador Piet de Klerk (Netherlands) informs us that the MTCR is seeking “practical ways” to strengthen the relationship between MTCR and the 1540 Committee.

The Committee met informally with members of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in October where they presented their publication, “[Towards the 2016 Comprehensive Review](#).” This is a compilation of papers written by former members of the 1540 Group of Experts.

Efforts are underway to implement the work plan for the 2016 Comprehensive Review. To do so we will need to work at a steady pace on all of the areas to be reviewed, including assistance, cooperation with international organisations and transparency and outreach. In the Work Plan there are two major events planned in April and June 2016. On 11 and 12 April, we are planning an international academic event. It will allow us to take advantage of the talents of that community to learn how to improve implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to discuss with them the responsibilities of the academic community to secure technology that might be misused for the purpose of proliferation of WMD. In June there will be an open consultation with Member States and civil society.

With regard to outreach events, we already have more than a dozen in the calendar for 2016 – including some events dedicated to the Comprehensive Review. We will take every opportunity at these events to draw attention to the Comprehensive Review and to encourage inputs and ideas.

The Committee has finalised its annual review of implementation for 2015. It concluded that steady progress is being made in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as demonstrated by the increased number of recorded, legally binding measures taken by States; submission by States of initial reports; additional reporting by others of their implementation; and further direct interaction by the Committee with States, including on the drafting of voluntary national implementation action plans.

On behalf of the Committee I briefed the Security Council on 22 December on the Committee’s work since the last briefing in June. I believe that it is important that the 1540 Committee should brief the Security Council, either with the 1373 and 1267 Committees or alone, at least twice per year. Particularly in light of the extreme violence being perpetrated by terrorist groups in many parts of the world, including the use of improvised chemical weapons in the Middle East region, this will highlight for the Members of the Council the important role that fulfilment of the 1540 obligations can play in reducing the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

My best wishes to all for the New Year.

Visit www.un.org/en/sc/1540 for detailed information on resolution 1540.