



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

QUARTERLY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

During the period under review in this message, from July to September, the ninth 1540 Expert took up his position, bringing the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee back to full capacity.

In accordance with operative paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council encouraged all States that have submitted national reports “to provide, when appropriate or upon the request of the 1540 Committee, additional information on their implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), including, voluntarily, on their laws and regulations and on States’ effective practices”. During August 2018, I took the opportunity to send letters to all reporting States encouraging them to provide up-to-date information, which will provide a more accurate set of data to assist the Committee to discharge more effectively its responsibilities, including in preparation for the next Comprehensive Review.

In a continuation of efforts to enhance the capacity and understanding of the role of national Points of Contact (POC) on resolution 1540 (2004), two POC training courses took place this quarter, with four 1540 Experts participating in each course as instructors, along with trainers from other international and regional organisations. The first POC course was hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa for Francophone African Countries during August. This training course was the first of two envisaged for the African region. In September, the Russian Federation hosted a training course in Rostov-on-Don for 1540 national Points of Contact of the Member States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This was the second time the Russian Federation has hosted a 1540 POC training course and the sixth training course of its kind overall.

These training courses were intended to enhance POCs’ understanding of resolution 1540 (2004), its background and the range of tools available to support States in meeting their implementation obligations. They also provided an opportunity to exchange views on effective practices in meeting implementation challenges and the need for effective channels of communication between authorities and agencies responsible for national implementation, between the respective POCs and with the 1540 Committee. Both trainings facilitated the understanding of the participants of resolution 1540 (2004), its background and its implementation requirements, and addressed challenges States could face when implementing resolution 1540 (2004). They also contributed to strengthening the 1540 Points of Contact network.

In resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council acknowledged that parliamentarians have a key role in enacting the necessary legislation to implement the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004). I was, therefore, honoured to deliver a video message in September to the Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The event was hosted by the National Group in Tanzania for Parliamentarians for Global Action and supported by the Government of Canada. In my message I underlined that one of the key obligations for Member States under resolution 1540 (2004) is to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any such activities, to participate in them as an accomplice or to assist or finance

them. I emphasised that adoption of such appropriate and effective laws is particularly relevant to the mandate of Members of Parliament. I also called upon Members of Parliament of the remaining non-reporting States to encourage their Governments to submit their first reports without delay and confirmed that the 1540 Committee, with the support of the Group of Experts, remains ready to cooperate with and, upon request, facilitate assistance to States to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

In paragraph 29 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee to continue organizing and participating in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), internationally, regionally and nationally. The Committee and Group of Experts accordingly continued to conduct outreach activities as follows:

- A 1540 Expert participated in the Kyrgyzstan national round table on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan in July. The two-day round table provided an opportunity to discuss the latest developments related to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including implementation of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions in the context of realization of the voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) of Kyrgyzstan. The 1540 Expert informed the Kyrgyz side about the latest developments in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) worldwide, and specifically in the OSCE region, and further discussed with relevant Kyrgyz agencies the assistance needs of Kyrgyzstan.
- A 1540 Expert participated in July in a Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh, attended by a mix of Bangladeshi government policy makers and practitioners, on the “Implementation of Transport-related Maritime Counter-Terrorism International Legal Instruments”, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Expert briefed the meeting about provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) relevant to Maritime security issues, their implementation, and about the Committee’s role in providing assistance to Member States to implement the resolution.
- A 1540 Expert participated in July in a Regional Workshop on Science and Technology Developments Relevant to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for the Middle East and North Africa, organized by the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Government of Jordan in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society. During the meeting, which took place in Amman, there were substantive discussions related to biosecurity, intangible technology transfers and responsible use of science, highlighting the complementarity of the implementation of the resolution and the BWC.
- A 1540 Expert participated in July in Follow-up visits of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, conducted on behalf of the CTC. In Armenia and Georgia, the 1540 Expert had separate meetings with representatives of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and agencies involved in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Expert also provided the officials with updated information on the implementation of the resolution, including the status of implementation in the OSCE region as well as on the outcomes of the Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the unanimous adoption in December 2016 of resolution 2325 (2016). In Armenia, the status of implementation of their voluntary NAP, which was adopted by Armenia in February 2015, was also discussed.
- A 1540 Expert participated in the first three Meetings of Experts of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in August, which were organised by the BWC States Parties and the BWC Implementation Support Unit in Geneva. 95 States Parties and 11 international and regional organisations participated in the Meetings. The 1540 Expert gave a statement at each Meeting on, respectively, the Committee’s current assistance and matchmaking process, including a brief description of the procedures for

responding to requests for and offers of assistance; on the Security Council's call upon States to take into account developments on the evolving nature of risk of proliferation and rapid advances in science and technology in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); and on the steps the 1540 Committee is taking under resolution 2325 (2016) and its current programme of work to strengthen national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

- Two experts participated in a Capacity-Building Workshop in Zambia on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement under the framework of resolution 1540 (2004) convened by the Government of Zambia in August in cooperation with the UNODA, the 1540 Committee and the World Customs Organization (WCO), with the financial support of the European Union. The Workshop provided an opportunity to broaden the understanding of national stakeholders in Zambia of resolution 1540 (2004) obligations, to exchange views on the specific measures Zambia has undertaken and to assist in the drafting of a roadmap to further strengthen national implementation, which identified the responsible national authorities and timelines, as well as areas where further assistance may be required. The WCO and the Zambian authorities will implement the Strategic Trade Control Enforcement aspects of the roadmap.
- A 1540 Expert participated in a National Roundtable in August in Colombo, Sri Lanka, attended by a mix of Sri Lankan government policy makers and practitioners, on “Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The 1540 Expert briefed participants on the requirements of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016) regarding proliferation financing, and their implementation. The 1540 Expert also participated, at the same time in August, in a Workshop in Colombo attended by a mix of Sri Lankan government policy makers and practitioners, on the “Implementation of Transport-related Maritime Counter-Terrorism International Legal Instruments”, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. The Expert informed the meeting about developments in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) relevant to Maritime security issues and the Committee's role in providing assistance to Member States in implementation of the resolution. The meeting also provided the opportunity for separate discussions with Sri Lankan officials about implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Two experts participated in the 2nd UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Industrial Outreach Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September in coordination with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and supported by UNODA, with financial contributions from the European Union and Germany. The workshop provided an opportunity to promote dialogue between industry and governments, addressing recent global business and trade developments and sharing best practices of industries in the Asia-Pacific Region. The 1540 Experts also provided the participants with updated information on the implementation status of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region and of subsequent resolution 2325 (2016).
- In September, a 1540 Expert participated in the 4th African Conference on Emerging Infectious Disease and Biosecurity, organized by Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The participants discussed the threat raised by the different deadly outbreaks faced on the continent and the lack of biosecurity measures to deal with the samples generated in those situations. The 1540 Expert participated in the discussions in order to raise awareness about the obligations arising from resolution 1540 (2004).

- A 1540 Expert participated in September in a WHO consultative meeting on guidance for a biosafety and biosecurity regulatory framework. During the three-day meeting in Geneva, the participants heard presentations from countries about how they were implementing biosecurity measures in their national regulatory frameworks. A representative from WHO then explained the rationale for developing a new guidance for countries, which would complement its Joint External Evaluation Tool (JEE). The JEE aims to achieve whole-of-government biosafety and biosecurity systems.

For more information about the Committee and its activities, and for more detailed information on resolution 1540 (2004) and its successor resolutions, visit <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>.