



# 1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

**QUARTERLY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is my first quarterly message as the new Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). I look forward to working with other Members of the Committee during the lead-up to the Comprehensive Review, which must take place before expiration of its mandate in April 2021. I also wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Ambassador Llorenty Solíz and his staff for their solid Chairmanship of the Committee during 2017 and 2018, followed by a smooth handover of responsibilities to my team.

In operative paragraph (OP) 4 of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and in subsequent resolutions, the Council called on all States to report on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement the resolution. During the period under review in this message, October to December 2018, the Union of the Comoros submitted its first national implementation report of resolution 1540 (2004) to the Committee. Moreover, in October, two 1540 Experts visited the Republic of Mali in order to support national authorities to draft a first national report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The visit to Bamako was hosted by the Government of Mali in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and supported by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). There were initial meetings with the host and national officials followed by a two-day workshop focused on understanding resolution 1540 (2004) and its requirements and the contents of a national report on implementation of the resolution. By 31 December 2018, eleven States had yet to submit a first report, nine of which are in Africa and two in Asia.

In OP 4 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council encouraged all States that had submitted first 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 October to December, the Committee received additional information from Cambodia, Hungary and Indonesia. The Committee welcomes this additional information, and encourages other Governments to provide up-to-date information, as it will provide a more accurate and current set of data to assist the Committee to discharge more effectively its responsibilities, including in preparation for the next Comprehensive Review.

In OP 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. Though the Chair of the 1540 Committee could not participate in every event to which he was invited, he took the opportunity to deliver a number of video messages during October to December. For example, 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). Accordingly, the Chair took the opportunity to deliver a video message in October to the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva. He 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. He also emphasised that adoption of such appropriate and effective laws is particularly relevant to the mandate of Members of Parliament. He also 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).

Additionally, the Chair delivered video messages to the Universalisation Workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for African Union (AU) Member States, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December and to the AU Comprehensive Model Law on Weapons of Mass Destruction Inception Workshop, which also took place in December in Vienna, Austria. In that message, the Chair briefly reviewed how the Committee is working with States to implement the key provisions of the resolution, under resolution 2325 (2016) and its Programme of Work.

In addition, the Committee and Group of Experts continued to conduct other outreach activities as follows:

- A 1540 Expert participated in a meeting in October in Brussels, organised by the European Commission's Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, titled the "Second EU P2P Export Control Governance Dialogue". The event was intended to promote dialogue between export control regimes and countries implementing export controls. The 1540 Expert described the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) in these respects, progress by Member States in their implementation, and the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004) that will be undertaken prior to termination of the current Committee's mandate in April 2021.
- Two 1540 experts participated in October in the Bahrain National Roundtable on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), hosted by the Government of Bahrain. The 1540 experts gave several presentations, including an overview of resolution 1540 (2004) with basic obligations; an overview of links between resolution 1540 (2004) and other non-proliferation regimes; detailed obligations in OPs 2 and 3; and an introduction to assistance programmes for resolution 1540 (2004). A discussion with national stakeholders, on the basis of Bahrain's matrix, was also undertaken to identify gaps in their legislation and challenges to fill such gaps, as well as possible further steps to be taken. The roundtable was the first resolution 1540 implementation meeting hosted by Bahrain, gathering all relevant governmental experts and stakeholders for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and underlining the importance of raising awareness and exchange of knowledge among the stakeholders.
- A 1540 Expert participated in a meeting organized by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe in Harare, Zimbabwe in October, titled "Technical Assistance and Training on Countering Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing". The 1540 Expert described the requirements of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016) related to proliferation financing, and discussed possible legislation and good practices to counter the threat.
- A 1540 Expert participated in October in a side event of the UN General Assembly's First Committee, in relation to The Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), on "Tools and challenges to address ballistic missile proliferation today", organised by the French Foundation for Strategic Research and the Government of Sweden with the support of the European Union. During the event, which took place in New York, the 1540 Expert presented the legally-binding key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) relevant to non-proliferation of ballistic missiles to non-State actors. The event provided an opportunity for the 1540 Expert to highlight the importance of full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- A 1540 Expert participated in October in the 2018 Forum on Nuclear Export Control Practices, hosted by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of the United Arab Emirates. The 1540 Expert provided an overview of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) in relation to the adoption and enforcement of effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, including export, transit, trans-shipment and border controls.
- A 1540 Expert participated in October in the Workshop on the Role of Implementation Legislation on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in addressing threats arising from non-State actors, for countries in the Sahel region, organised by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Nigeria. During the meeting, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria, the 1540 Expert presented on the universal nature of legally-binding key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) relevant to non-

proliferation of chemical weapons to non-State actors. The meeting provided an opportunity for the 1540 Expert to highlight the importance of full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as well as to enhance the Committee's co-operation with the OPCW on the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004).

- A 1540 Expert participated in the Regional Workshop for Central Asian States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) on scientific and practical implementation issues, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in October. The 1540 Expert provided an update on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including in the Central Asian region, and recalled the basic obligations of all States under resolution 1540 (2004) to adopt, legislation to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and their means of delivery and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking by non-State actors.
- The Chair of the 1540 Committee and two 1540 Experts participated in a side event during the UN General Assembly's First Committee on "Challenges for the Governance of Synthetic Biology and Implications for UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)". The event was hosted by the Permanent Missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Sweden to the United Nations in October in New York. The side event was an opportunity for States to take into account developments on the evolving nature of risk of proliferation and rapid advances in science and technology, in this case synthetic biology, in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- The Government of Bolivia, in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, hosted a regional conference on non-proliferation for the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, in La Paz in November. Convened under the theme "Seizing the opportunities, reducing the risks", the Conference was supported by UNODA, with financial contributions from the Governments of Norway and Spain through the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views and effective practices for preventing the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, focusing on the handling of related materials, with a view to strengthening the region's implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Two Experts participated in the "National Round Table to Improve Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)" in November in Lima, Peru. The event was convened by the Government of Peru, with the support of UNODA. During the discussions, which were focused on domestic controls over biological weapons and related materials, the existing gaps in their legislation were analysed.
- A 1540 expert participated in November in the BWC Asia Regional Workshop on the Implications of Rapid Developments in Science and Technology in Manila, the Philippines. The 1540 Expert gave an overview of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) in relation to biological weapons and related materials, in particular those under OP 3 which are the most relevant to the topic. It was emphasised that the resolution requires States to adopt legislation and ensure its effective implementation and enforcement.
- A 1540 Expert participated in December in the IAEA International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material and delivered a presentation during the Main Technical Session on "International Organizations—Roles and Initiatives in Prevention and Detection". The presentation focused on the key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), particularly OP 3(a)-(d), which related to the theme of the Conference, including the requirement for all States to develop and maintain effective measures to account for and secure nuclear weapons and related materials in production, use, storage or transport, physical protection measures, as well as border and export controls, and law enforcement measures to detect, deter, prevent and combat illicit trafficking. The presentation also explained the role of the 1540 Committee in monitoring and supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In addition, the presentation noted the synergies between the 1540 Committee's mandate and the work of other international organisations, such as the IAEA, on issues relevant to specific obligations under resolution 1540, and the importance of co-operation.
- Two 1540 Experts participated in December in a meeting to support the national authorities of Equatorial Guinea to improve implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This meeting, which

was hosted by the Government of Equatorial Guinea in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and supported by UNODA, was held in Malabo and provided an opportunity to facilitate a gap analysis, encourage preparation of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP), and give advice on the identification of possible assistance needs.

- Two 1540 Experts participated in the European Union CBRN Centres of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE) 15th CBRN CoE National Focal Points Roundtable Meeting for South-East Asia, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in December. The meeting focused on the development of CBRN national action plans in the ASEAN countries, and the participants to the meeting were the national focal points of the EU CBRN CoE. The 1540 Experts gave presentations on basic obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) and the assistance program of the 1540 Committee including development of NAPs for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Experts emphasized that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a legal obligation for all United Nations Member States while developing NAPs is voluntary. The 1540 Experts underlined that the 1540 Committee stands ready to provide assistance upon request from the ASEAN countries in developing their NAPs.
- A 1540 Expert participated in a Comprehensive Model Law on Weapons of Mass Destruction Inception Workshop, organised by the African Union (AU), in December in Vienna, Austria. The workshop was an opportunity for participating experts and practitioners to provide feedback and inputs in order to enhance the scope and contents of the AU Model Law. The participants also heard a video message from the Chair of the 1540 Committee, followed by a presentation by the 1540 Expert who explained the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular OPs 2 and 3, and their implementation through national laws and regulations. He also explained the requirements of resolution 2325 (2016) and their relevance to the proposed AU Model Law, especially OPs 14, 15 and 25.

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/>.