



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 this review from January to March, the 1540 Committee adopted its Programme of Work on 6 February for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020, laying the groundwork for our activities for the coming year. In addition, I gave my first statement as Chair of the Committee to the Security Council, on 19 March, on the work of the Committee since the last briefing in October 2018. In the statement, I stressed the importance of non-reporting Member States to submit their first reports; encouraged Member States to develop and submit voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs); and highlighted peer reviews as an example of one of the Committee's core activities, namely, exchanges and sharing of information by Member States. I noted that the Committee recognises the role of national Points of Contact (POCs) in support of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); underlined the Committee's matchmaking role for offers of and requests for assistance; and described the Committee's outreach activities to Member States during official visits and our engagement with international and regional organisations. I also flagged our preparatory work for the upcoming Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540, which is now underway.

In Operative Paragraph (OP) 3 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council called upon all States that had not yet presented a first report, on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004), to submit such a report to the 1540 Committee without delay. The Council also requested the Committee to make available its expertise to these States, as appropriate, to facilitate the submission of such reports. By 31 March 2019, eleven States had yet to submit a first report, nine of which are in Africa and two in Asia. Accordingly, I sent letters in March to all eleven non-reporting States encouraging them to submit their first reports by June 2019, stressing that this information will provide a more accurate and current set of data to assist the Committee to discharge more effectively its responsibilities in preparation for the next Comprehensive Review.

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. Accordingly, the Committee sent notes verbales in March to all reporting States requesting up-to-date information on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by August 2019. The Committee received an additional report in March from Cuba.

In OP 5 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council encouraged States to prepare on a voluntary basis NAPs, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, to map out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). The Council also requested States to submit their NAPs to the Committee. The Committee received an NAP from Suriname in March 2019, following the participation of a 1540 Expert in an NAP workshop in 2018 on strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The Security Council encouraged Member States, under OP 6 of resolution 2325 (2016), to provide the Committee with Points of Contact for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

During January to March, the Committee received updated POCs from Austria, the Dominican Republic, India and Turkey. I encouraged States that have yet to do so to provide a POC to facilitate the flow of information between the Committee and Member States.

Additionally, a Training Course for English-speaking African Countries' 1540 Points of Contact took place in Addis Ababa, during 26 to 28 March. In a message delivered on my behalf to participants in the Training Course, I emphasised the important role of POCs in facilitating the flow of information with the Committee and its Group of Experts. This Training Course was the seventh one held globally and the second one for Africa. The previous course was also held in Addis Ababa during 14 to 17 August 2018 for French-speaking African countries. The course was supported by UNODA/UNREC through financial contributions by the European Union. Representatives from the Governments of Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were in attendance. Participating 1540 Experts acted as course instructors, made presentations and facilitated discussions during breakout sessions. The Training Course enhanced the understanding of participants of the potential threat of the use of WMD by non-State actors, including in Africa, the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) in preventing such possibility and its implementation requirements and challenges, and of types and sources of assistance available to States.

The Security Council urged the Committee in OP 20 of resolution 2325 (2016) to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance. In March, I sent letters to all Member States with pending assistance requests on the Committee's website, going back to 2004, seeking updated information on their assistance needs and confirming that the Committee stands ready to make additional efforts, if necessary, to facilitate a dialogue with assistance-providers to further the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Under OP 22 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council encouraged the Committee to develop assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organisations. In March, I sent letters to a number of these organisations requesting updated information about the assistance they can provide or about other possible assistance programmes they are in a position to provide to Member States seeking help in meeting obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). I also requested their points of contact for assistance. The Committee received notifications from INTERPOL and OPCW in March with updated POCs, in line with OP 24 of resolution 2325 (2016).

Finally, and further to the Security Council's request in OP 29 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Committee and its Group of Experts continued to conduct outreach activities as follows:

- On 16 January, a 1540 Expert participated in a meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Project Team on Proliferation Finance, in Paris. The meeting discussed proposals to strengthen international efforts to counter proliferation financing by considering the potential value of modifications of the current FATF Recommendations, and their consistency with the framework of UN and FATF mandates. The meeting concluded with agreement that participants would prepare a number of options for consideration by the FATF Plenary in June 2019.
- From 23 to 25 January, a 1540 Expert participated in a National Capacity Building Workshop hosted by Togo in Lomé on "Strengthening National Strategic Trade Control Enforcement under the framework of UN Security Council resolution 1540

(2004)”. The Workshop was organised by the Government of Togo in co-operation with UNODA and its regional centre UNREC, the 1540 Group of Experts and the WCO, with financial support from the European Union. The Workshop was useful in broadening the understanding of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by national stakeholders. It also provided an opportunity to review progress made towards Togo’s National Implementation Action Plan for the period 2016-2022 and for detailed discussions on Togo’s needs in the area of customs and border controls.

- The Chair of the Committee delivered a video message on 30 January to the First Annual Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of India. In addition, a 1540 Expert conducted a webinar on resolution 1540 (2004) with participants to the Fellowship Programme.
- From 5 to 8 February a 1540 Expert participated in a cross-regional workshop for South and South-East Asia on the international counter terrorism legal framework, and its international cooperation aspects, against the financing of non-State actor acquisition of biological, chemical and nuclear (BCN) weapons, and related International Maritime Organization (IMO) legal instruments, organized by UNODC in Bali, Indonesia. The workshop covered topics related to international cooperation in the areas of maritime-related terrorism offences and countering the financing of non-State actor acquisition of WMD.
- A 1540 Expert participated in a National Workshop in Luanda, Angola from 12 to 13 February on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment, organised by the Government of Angola and the UNODC (Terrorism Prevention Branch), with the financial support of the Government of Canada. The Workshop was useful not only in increasing awareness among national stakeholders of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), but also illustrated the complementary nature of the resolution and synergies with other relevant multilateral treaties and organisations, and the need for close co-ordination in delivering effective assistance to requesting States.
- From 25 to 27 February, a 1540 Expert participated in an expert meeting organized by UNODC on the “Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism”. The participants discussed materials for a training course designed to improve Member States’ ability to counter proliferation financing activity in their jurisdictions.
- A 1540 Expert participated in the 26th Asian Export Control Seminar, organised by the Centre for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) with the support of the Government of Japan (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The event took place during 26 to 28 February in Tokyo. As in previous years, the seminar provided an opportunity to receive an update on current export control-related developments, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region. The event also provided an opportunity for the 1540 Expert to brief a wide and relevant audience on resolution 1540 (2004) obligations and to interact directly with national representatives.
- A 1540 Expert participated via video conference in a training course on Dual-Use Chemicals, organised by the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), which took place during 24 to 28 March in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- A 1540 Expert participated in a UNODC regional workshop on “Securing the Containerised Supply Chain from Strategic Trade Threats”, held in Bangkok, Thailand during 18 to 21 March. The Expert delivered a presentation on obligations of Member States under resolution 1540 (2004), in particular obligations under OP 3. The Expert also exchanged views with participating Member States on the margins of the workshop, to encourage them to provide additional information to the 1540 Committee regarding implementation of the resolution.
- A 1540 Expert participated via video conference in a National Workshop for Libyan officials on the international legal framework against nuclear terrorism, organised by UNODC and funded by the Government of Japan. The workshop took place in Rabat, Morocco during 20 to 21 March.
- Two 1540 Experts participated as observers in the first national visit of a peer review process on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) between the Dominican Republic and Panama. This peer review initiative consisted of preparatory meetings and the exchange of visits by delegations to the two countries. The first national visit took place during 26 to 29 March in Santo Domingo while the next national visit was scheduled to take place in Panama during 9 to 12 April.

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/>.