Dear Friends and Colleagues,

During this review, covering the period 1 July to 30 September, the 1540 Committee continued to carry out activities under its Programme of Work for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020. On 21 August, the Committee held informal consultations and discussed the ongoing update of the national 1540 matrices and the timeline of the 2021 Comprehensive Review. The Committee also received a first report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) from the Central African Republic, on 27 August, bringing the total of non-reporting States to eight in Africa and two in Asia.

On 12 September, I made opening remarks by video to the Training Course for 1540 Points of Contact of the Caribbean Community Countries (CARICOM), which took place in Bridgetown, Barbados. On 19 September I also gave a keynote address by video to the Regional Parliamentary Seminar on engaging parliaments of the Pacific region in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Wellington, New Zealand, highlighting the role parliamentarians can play in enacting the necessary legislation to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

In operative paragraph (OP) 4 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Committee has received additional reports from Argentina, Austria, India, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Paraguay, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey on their laws and regulations, and States’ practices.

Since 1 July, the Committee has received new or updated national Points of contact (POC) details from Austria, Cuba, Dominica, Greece, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, Singapore, Slovakia and Spain. I thank those States that have submitted this information and again encourage States that have yet to do so to provide details of their new or updated national POCs, to facilitate the flow of information between Member States and the 1540 Committee. Additionally, three Experts participated in a Training Course for 1540 Points of Contact from countries of the Caribbean Community, organised by CARICOM and hosted by the Government of Barbados, in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and supported by UNODA. The Training Course, with the support of a voluntary contribution from Canada, took place in Bridgetown during 10-12 September. As part of the training, the Experts gave an overview of the continuing importance of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016) as well as a description of the 1540 Committee, its implementation tools, and other instruments addressing these risks. Each of the participating countries also described their efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and the challenges they were facing.

The Committee conducted an open meeting on state specificity for 4 October and received written inputs from several Member States in advance of the meeting.

In line with OP 24 of resolution 2325 (2016), the Committee received notifications from the African Union, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), International Maritime Organization, INTERPOL and the Organization of American States with their updated details. In addition, further to OP 10 of resolution
1977 (2011), the Committee received information on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) from the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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

- A representative of the Chair and an Expert participated in a Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) meeting where they emphasized the role of parliamentarians in enacting the necessary legislation to implement Resolution 1540. The event was the Executive Committee Meeting on their PGA’s Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The event took place in New York on 15 July and was organised by PGA.


- An Expert participated in the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts, organised by the BWC States Parties and Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The Meeting took place in Geneva, Switzerland during 29 July to 8 August.

- During 20-21 August, two 1540 Experts participated as observers in Montevideo, Uruguay, as part of a peer review process of applicable legislation and best practices related to WMDs organised by the Governments of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Paraguay under the auspices of the Organization of American States. The second visit took place in Asuncion, Paraguay, during 11-12 September.

- On 9 September, a 1540 Expert participated in an Export Control Dialogue with Science and Research in Berlin, Germany, that focused on technology transfers, compliance with national legislation, and the role that civil society could play in assisting, where appropriate, Member States in the implementation of Resolution 1540. The Expert participated in the discussions by presenting on the obligations of the resolution in general and highlighting the obligations deriving from OP 3(c) and (d).

- From 17 to 19 September, an Expert participated in a Sub-regional Forum of Stakeholders on the National Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and on Latin-American Cooperation, in Buenos Aires. The 1540 Expert presented on the key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) relevant to the non-proliferation of chemical weapons to non-State actors, with a particular focus on OP 3(a) and (b) of the resolution.

- A 1540 Expert participated in a regional workshop organised by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during 17-19 September 2019, on Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (by non-State actors). The workshop was attended by representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The 1540 Expert made a presentation describing the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the work of the 1540 Committee and participated in subsequent workshop discussions and exercises.
• From 18 to 20 September, two 1540 Experts participated in a Regional Parliamentary Seminar on engaging parliaments of the Pacific region in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in Wellington, New Zealand. The objectives of the seminar were to raise awareness of the resolution, its provisions, and its significance for countries that do not possess WMDs but whose territories could be used for the illicit trafficking of WMD or related materials. The 1540 Experts gave three presentations covering an overview of resolution 1540 (2004) including key requirements and implementation of provisions of the resolution; on prohibited activities under the resolution and the links between relevant treaties and the resolution; and on tools used by the 1540 Committee to promote full implementation of the resolution, with a particular focus on the 1540 Matrix.

• An Expert participated in a Universalisation Workshop on the BWC for the Pacific, organised by the BWC ISU and hosted by the House of Representatives of New Zealand. The Workshop took place on 21 September in Wellington. The Expert gave a presentation on implementation of measures relevant to non-proliferation of biological weapons in resolution 1540 (2004).

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/.