

Message from H.E Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Workshop in support of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Southern Africa

Livingstone, Zambia, 29 – 30 May 2019

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I wish to welcome all participants in this Southern African Development Community (SADC) Workshop in support of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540. Due to other responsibilities related to the work of the Security Council, I am unfortunately not able to be with you today.

At the outset, I wish to convey our deep appreciation to Zambia, as Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, for this important initiative and its commitment to support the efforts of Southern African States in strengthening their national capacity in the implementation of resolution 1540. I also wish to thank the international organisations who will contribute to this Workshop, to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United States for its support.

Since its adoption 15 years ago, resolution 1540 has become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture by preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, to non-State actors, including terrorists. The resolution seeks to ensure that all States have appropriate and effective legislation and enforcement measures in place. The full and effective implementation of the resolution remains key to preventing the potentially catastrophic consequences that could result from the use of these weapons.

The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 and its follow-up resolutions demonstrates broad political convergence on this objective. You are well-aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak in various parts of the world, including on the African Continent. In this context, we should remain conscious of the possibility of the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons by such actors. Regrettably, as we have witnessed from recent incidents involving the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, this is not only a theoretical possibility.

While there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to 1540 implementation, particularly given the unique circumstances and specificities of each State, much can be achieved through the sharing of experiences and effective practices.

International, regional and sub-regional cooperation play an important role in the effective implementation of the resolution. Such cooperation may take various forms.

This Workshop provides an excellent opportunity for SADC States to share their experiences in national implementation and discuss any assistance needs, as well as identify opportunities for closer collaboration between States.

To date, 182 States have submitted initial reports of its 1540 national implementation. Among the 11 States that have yet to submit a first report, 9 are from Africa, including 2 from the SADC region. I wish to encourage these States to submit their reports as soon as possible. The Committee stands ready to provide any assistance that may be required in this regard.

It is my hope that this Workshop will contribute towards deepening understanding of the respective obligations under resolution 1540 and ways and means to strengthen national implementation in the SADC region.

I thank you for your attention.