

Virtual National Workshop on Botswana's draft voluntary National Implementation Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

8 February 2022

Your Excellency, Ambassador Kelapile,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I wish to congratulate the Government of Botswana on the successful National Workshop held in August last year and to extend our gratitude for the invitation to contribute to this follow-up Workshop dedicated to the presentation and finalisation of Botswana's draft voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee continues to encourage States to prepare a voluntary action plan, which is a useful tool to identify actions to address any implementation gaps, foster cooperation between national stakeholders, and identify areas where assistance may be required.

Allow me to acknowledge the presence of representatives of Governments and International and Regional Organisations who have submitted offers of assistance through the 1540 Committee in response to Botswana's assistance request. Though implementation of the resolution is a responsibility of States, assistance from the international community continues to play an important role in enhancing capacities needed to meet their 1540-related obligations. Resolution 2325 (2016) further urged the 1540 Committee to continue to strengthen its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance. It is our hope that this workshop will contribute towards this aim, not only in finalising Botswana's draft action plan, but also in terms of concrete proposals to provide assistance, in accordance with Botswana's requirements and national priorities.

As I noted during the last workshop, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remains key in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, by non-State actors. The 1540 Committee acknowledges that countering this threat is a long-term and continuing task. I therefore wish to commend the Government of Botswana for the actions it has already taken to strengthen the implementation of the resolution and for the progress made in the preparation of its action plan, which we understand will be submitted to the Committee in due course.

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, please be assured of our commitment to support Botswana's efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). We look forward to a productive workshop over the next two days.

I thank you.