

## **Open consultations of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive Review Chair's opening remarks (31 May 2022)**

Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

The Committee welcomes your participation and trusts that the open consultations will be successful through your engagement.

As we now turn to the general debate, I would like to refer to the objectives of the open consultations.

In 2011, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1977 which mandated the current comprehensive review. Preparations started in 2019 but the review was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. A report on the conclusion of the review will be submitted to the Security Council prior to the renewal of the Committee's mandate which, under resolution 2622, expires on 30 November 2022.

The open consultations will be part of the contributions to the comprehensive review process. The Committee looks forward to hearing directly, over the next three days, the views of Member States, as well as selected inter-governmental, regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, professional associations, and industry, about the implementation of resolution 1540 and the work of the Committee to assist Member States to this end.

The Committee has continuously been reviewing the information it possesses on measures taken by States to implement the requirements under resolution 1540. Such information includes the updated Committee matrices which were published by the Committee on its website with the permission of States, and I take this opportunity to thank all Member States for their cooperation in updating their respective matrices. It also includes the contents of national reports submitted by States, of voluntary national implementation action plans, of statements of effective practices submitted by international and regional organisations, and reports of peer reviews conducted by States amongst themselves and submitted to the Committee on a voluntary basis.

The Committee also possesses information provided during specific events which it organized or to which it was invited, about lessons learnt by Member States in implementation of resolution 1540. Such events have provided important opportunities for the Committee to interact with States. Such opportunities have also included a wide array of other interactions with international, regional and subregional organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, professional associations, and industry on matters relating to implementation, assistance, cooperation and outreach.

It is paramount to underscore the collaborative approach of the Committee, whose efforts are dedicated to promoting the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540, including through monitoring and gathering the information provided by States and facilitating efforts on technical assistance, among others. It is also important to note that resolution 1540 is neither a sanctions nor a counter-terrorism resolution, but a non-proliferation resolution that is aimed at preventing non-

State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, through the adoption and enforcement of appropriate effective laws by States, in accordance with their national procedures. The focus of the resolution is on prevention.

Excellencies,

Throughout the open consultations there is an opportunity to exchange many views, receive your ideas and suggestions. The specific aspects of the implementation of resolution 1540 since the last comprehensive review in 2016 may be brought up by participants in an explicit manner or referencing cross-cutting aspects if deemed necessary. The background paper that has been circulated to all participants already includes much useful data in this respect. As you will note from the agenda there will be an opportunity to discuss the themes of this Comprehensive Review towards the end of the open consultations. I would encourage delegations to actively engage in these discussions, and to make them truly interactive, including if you want to ask particular questions. I will point out a few aspects:

- Implementation of resolution 1540 and the rate of progress recorded during the 2020 matrix updating confirms that the full implementation of the resolution remains a long-term task.
- The Committee acts as a matchmaker between States requesting assistance and States and organisations that offer assistance. Improvement of the assistance mechanism continues to be an active endeavor, including in its complementarity and cooperation with international organisations.
- Transparency and outreach of the Committee's work make an important contribution to enhancing confidence, fostering cooperation, and raising awareness about the provisions of resolution 1540 and how its implementation contributes to international peace and security.

Excellencies,

The framework created by resolution 1540 almost twenty years ago has been able to generate a dynamic of international cooperation and proves the value of this Security Council subsidiary body.

The Committee's conclusions and recommendations in the framework of the comprehensive review will be further developed drawing on the views and recommendations expressed by you towards ensuring that the resolution continues to play its role in the maintenance of international peace and security in the future.

We all need to make sure that we do everything within our capacity to prevent all threats that would lead to the catastrophic outcome of the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. We cannot falter in this endeavour or we risk failing those who count on us to contribute to a safer world.