

Final Statement of the South African Chair to the 1540 Committee

Dear Colleagues,

Since our last meeting, I have had the honour to participate in the workshops hosted by South Africa and India on resolution 1540. The Workshop on Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) for African States took place on 21 and 22 November in Pretoria and the 1540 Workshop on Synergies with Nuclear Security took place on 30 November and 1 December in New Delhi.

I have also been honoured to convey our appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at a reception hosted by the Kingdom on 10 December, for their ongoing efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and their support for the work of the Committee.

We have heard a briefing from Ambassador Singh Puri on the New Delhi workshop. Now, I would like to say a few words about the meeting in Pretoria. The Government of South Africa hosted the workshop for African States under the title “Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for African States” in collaboration with the African Union (AU), supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and with the facilitation of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). 35 African States attended the workshop along with representatives from relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, including from the 1540 Committee and its group of experts. The meeting contributed to an understanding of the synergies available to African States to advance their socio-economic development objectives, while developing national capacities for the implementation of United Nations Security Council 1540 (2004). In addition, a further objective of the meeting was to discuss and debate how best to meet the obligations of Resolution 1540 given the limited capacities and resources of African States, with particular reference to the importance of co-ordination at the sub-regional and regional levels in this regard. It is also my hope that the Committee will finally receive the outstanding first reports from African States as a result of the renewed vigour created by the workshop.

Finally, I would like express my humble appreciation to Committee members and the experts for their work and support over the last two years. With your commitment, we have seen the ten year extension Committee’s mandate, the agreement on the group of experts, and active engagement with States and various international, regional and sub-regional organizations to move our work forward. It has been a pleasure for me to represent the Committee.

I wish you all the best.