

Briefing of the Security Council  
by  
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I am pleased to have the opportunity and honour to brief the Security Council on the work of the 1540 Committee in its task of overseeing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Since I last briefed the Council on 16 June the increase in extreme violence being perpetrated by terrorists in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America has been relentless. The variety of methods being used by these groups and their supporters is remarkable - one cannot help but be concerned that we should at all costs prevent the world being taken by surprise by an attack with one of the forms of weapons of mass destruction -- be it nuclear, chemical or biological. This means that Member States must be ever more vigilant in preventing such a catastrophic event. The keystone in the architecture of the non-proliferation regime intended to prevent non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, their delivery means and related materials, is without doubt resolution 1540 (2004). States that faithfully implement the obligations of this resolution, no matter where they are in the world, make substantive and practical contributions in the fight against such proliferation and help to prevent such a horrendous event from happening. However, we already know of the use of chemical weapons in the Middle East region and of the attempts to smuggle nuclear material reported by INTERPOL in various countries.

No-one in the world is immune from the threat of WMD use by None-State Actors -- either in the form of a direct threat of attack, or, perhaps unwittingly, by being exploited as a transit place for equipment, related materials, technology transfers and supporting funds, if proper and effective legislation and controls are not in place. It remains a global challenge that requires a global response. The cost of investment now in effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will undoubtedly save far higher costs later - not only in financial terms, but also in humanitarian, political, social and material terms.

The 1540 Committee and its supporting Group of Experts has had a very busy time since I last briefed you six months ago.

The Committee has completed its revision of the record of implementation measures of all 193 Member States over the past two years and is getting underway its five year Comprehensive Review of implementation that the Council requires to be delivered before December 2016.

While the review of the data is far from complete, preliminary indications are that there is a steady increase in implementation measures being put in place by States. While this steady progress is continuing, it is uneven both thematically and geographically. For example, there are gaps in effective implementation of export controls and of regulatory steps to prevent non-state actors from providing funding support to actions prohibited under the resolution, such as illicit trafficking in WMD related materials.

The 1540 Committee places high value on direct interaction with States as a key element in the effort to promote more widespread and effective implementation of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). Over ninety percent of States have reported to the 1540 Committee on the measures they have taken to implement the resolution. While this is impressive it still leaves 17 States that have yet to submit a report on the measures they have taken to implement the resolution.. Initial reports have been forthcoming from States in the past year as a direct result of visits by invitation. These direct interactions have also led to an increase in the number of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans in which States set out their plans for more effective implementation of the resolution. An innovation this year was the introduction of a training course for national 1540 Points of Contact. This was hosted by China last September for States in the Asia Pacific region and was successful in promoting understanding of the obligations under the resolution among the participants, who can then carry the message back to their governments and keep in contact with each other and the Committee to provide a “living network” of contacts. Chile has offered to host a similar training course for Latin American countries in the first half of next year.

One of the areas where we are not doing so well is in the operation of the 1540 assistance system. One of the barriers to effective implementation in a number of States is having the capacity to fully implement the obligations arising from the resolution. Requests for assistance are made to the Committee and passed to registered potential providers. However, very few requests are fulfilled. The system needs to be made more responsive and prompt. The Committee has put in hand a regional approach by enlisting the help of regional

organisations to promote more efficiency to the benefit of requesting States. In particular the Committee looks forward to a regional event being hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa in March 2016. Improving the assistance system is one of the central issues in the Comprehensive Review now underway.

In 2015, the Committee and its supporting experts have intensified their collaboration with international organisations at the global and regional levels – and with other relevant entities within the UN family. We are collaborating more closely with the IAEA particularly in important overlapping areas such as the IAEA’s work on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP) and the 1540 voluntary National Implementation Action Plans. The participation by Committee representatives in the Nuclear Security Maritime Transportation Exercise, organised by Morocco and Spain in cooperation with the IAEA, was another example of cooperation in the nuclear security area. The Committee looks forward to participating in the IAEA’s 2016 Nuclear Security Conference that will no doubt help develop even closer collaboration.

In the chemical and biological areas we have continued our cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) by benefitting from their representatives participating in regional 1540 events such as one in the Middle East in Amman, Jordan last June. Committee members and our supporting Group of Experts participated in the BWC Meetings of Experts last August and in the Meeting of States Parties just last week.

Our relations with international organisations that cut across all three of the WMD subject areas are vital to us too. These include the World Customs Organisation (WCO), INTERPOL and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). In the case of FATF we have made more intensive engagement with its related regional entities in Africa, Asia and Latin America by including them in our regional events, including in the Points of Contact training course in China.

Support from regional organisations for our outreach to Member States has also been enhanced. As I have already indicated the African Union is playing an important role in this regard and will continue to do so having committed through a resolution to give support to

1540 implementation. Also in Africa, for the first time, the Committee interacted with the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) that has been pursuing 1540 implementation among its member States in East Africa and the Horn of Africa as well as with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG).

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) now has staff dedicated to 1540 implementation support on a more sustained basis and sets a good example through, among other things, supporting the appointment of, and engagement with, 1540 Points of Contact among its Participating States. The OSCE has been particularly supportive in promoting effective implementation in Central Asian States. We are strengthening our regional connections in the Americas through a plan to support the establishment of a 1540 project officer at the Organisation for American States (OAS).

The Committee has met with Chairs and Members of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). The Chair of the NSG gave a briefing to the participants in the 1540 Points of Contact Training course in China. We are moving much more in the direction of practical engagement with these multilateral export control regimes.

Within the UN family we have continued to benefit from participation in joint visits to States with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). This activity has enhanced the Committee's opportunities for direct engagement with States that we consider to be of particular value. Another important partner in this sector is the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Organisation for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In particular last October the Group of Experts participated in UNODC efforts in developing a training module for the implementation of the various legal instruments directly related to weapons of mass destruction. The purpose of the participation by the Group of Experts was to help ensure that instruction on resolution 1540 obligations is included.

With regard to the Committee's efforts at transparency and outreach, particular efforts have been made to engage important elements of civil society namely, industry, academia and parliamentarians. Obviously industry is a key partner to governments in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Last November, Germany hosted the fourth in an annual series of seminars to engage representatives of industry from around the world, known

as the “Wiesbaden Process”. This recent seminar was designed specifically to make a contribution to the Committee’s Comprehensive Review and to chart a way forward for continued engagement with industry. On the latter point one of the important outcomes was the idea to take a regional approach in engaging industry. To this end I am glad to report that the Republic of Korea has announced that it will host a regional event, in the spirit of the “Wiesbaden Process” in Seoul in September 2016. India has also indicated that it plans to host a similar event for industry in Asia in 2016.

It is very important to engage with parliamentarians who have to develop and pass the legislation essential to 1540 implementation. In this regard I am pleased to say that an agreement has been made with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), via UNODA, to promote 1540 implementation among their membership. We are looking forward to a conference with African parliamentarians, dedicated to 1540 implementation, being planned by the IPU in the Cote d’Ivoire in 2016. This will be a truly innovative event.

With regard to academia the Committee has received briefings from academics on ideas to enhance the effectiveness of its oversight of implementation of the resolution as well as on how to enhance implementation in relation to biological security.

Now I would like to turn to the Comprehensive Review of the implementation that the Council has called for by next December. Modalities for the conduct of the Review have been agreed by the Committee and a work plan has been developed and is being implemented. The Review will look back over the past five years of experience of implementation to assess progress so far and look forward to recommend any changes needed to make implementation more effective and sustained in future. The plan of work has four themes:

- The status of implementation and how best to enhance the Committee’s oversight of implementation, including data collection, management and dissemination;
- As I mentioned earlier, to draw on the experience of the operation of the 1540 assistance system and how to make it more efficient and responsive to States to help them to develop the capacity to implement resolution 1540 (2004) effectively;
- To develop further and maintain the Committee’s relations with relevant international organisations; in particular with regional and sub-regional organisations in order to engage their sustained support for 1540 implementation; and,

- How to develop further our outreach to States and the relevant sectors of civil society. This includes improving the opportunities for direct interaction as well as the effective use of the wider opportunities offered by the technical advances in communications technology.

Among the activities conducted so far to support the Comprehensive Review have been:

- A seminar with former members of the Group of Experts dedicated to producing contributions to the Comprehensive Review was conducted last May. The host for the event, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has published a report on the discussions
- The seminar with industry in Germany that I described earlier;
- A retreat for the Committee's Working Group on Implementation with our supporting Group of Experts on 10 and 11 December. The participants studied preliminary data to identify trends in implementation that I alluded to earlier in my remarks. Participants in the retreat also looked at ideas for better data management and presentation, including hearing advice from outside specialists on this subject.

Looking ahead the Committee's plans include a consultation with academia in April 2016. This event will involve leading academics from around the world to seek their ideas on the effective implementation of the resolution; not just from the perspective of governments but also for enhanced implementation by academia itself – particularly in the realm of the physical sciences.

In June 2016 the Committee plans to carry out an extensive consultation with Member States and civil society. The event will be conducted in New York. We are looking for a genuine consultation at which the Committee will put forward its findings so far and seek inputs from the participants that can be taken into account in the preparation of the report of the Review due three months later.

Naturally in the course of the participation of Committee members and its Experts in outreach events around the world we will seek views on the Comprehensive Review wherever we go.

The Committee is finishing its 2015 Annual Review that is due to be sent to the Security Council by 31 December. Also the Committee will prepare its Programme of Work for 2016

that will be sent to the Council by 31 January. In the light of these submissions I believe that it would be appropriate that the 1540 Committee should brief the Council on these submissions and future plans in February or early March.

I will finish where I began. There is of course a cost to implementation. However, if non-State actors exploit gaps in implementation and WMD capabilities end up in the hands of terrorists, and are used – the costs will be enormous. This leads me to acknowledge Member States and others that have recognised the value of investment in prevention by making contributions to the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities dedicated to 1540 support that is managed by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The Committee is grateful for UNODA's support in this regard. Funds from the UN Trust Fund being used currently for 1540 support come from Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union. Without these contributions the Committee would not be able to carry out its work effectively. On behalf of the Committee I must express grateful thanks to these countries. We need more contributions. Invest now rather than pay hugely later!

Thank you for your attention.

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