

**Briefing to the Security Council by the Chair of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on 30 March 2021**

I am honoured to have the opportunity to brief the Security Council, as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), on the work of the Committee since the last briefing, contained in the Chair's letter of 29 April 2020. I wish to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, and his staff for their steady Chairmanship of the Committee, followed by a smooth handover to my team.

Resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. States have made significant progress in the full implementation of the resolution. Nevertheless, some gaps remain, and the Security Council recognizes that the full and effective implementation of the resolution is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

During 2020, owing to travel and other restrictions imposed so as to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee took precautionary measures in conducting its business, which it did largely by virtual means. The Committee held one in-person meeting and undertook no in-person visits to States. In contrast with 59 in-person events in 2019, in 2020 the Committee participated in 19 events, most of them virtual, organised by States, international and regional organisations, and other UN bodies and Committees to promote full implementation of the resolution by all States. By virtual means, 24 informal consultations were also undertaken with Member States to discuss and clarify additional information they provided relevant to Committee matrices. Two virtual meetings were also held to discuss assistance requests, submitted to the Committee by Mongolia and Panama.

The Committee finalised the updating and review of all matrix information in preparation for the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004) that was initiated in 2019. On 2 March 2020, the Committee sent draft updated Committee matrices to all Member States, inviting comments and additional information on national implementation, so as to provide the Committee with a more accurate set of data to assist in discharging its responsibilities. A total of 66 Member States responded to the invitation, of which 56 provided substantive comments and additional information. In December, the Committee finalised the review of 193 Committee matrices and published on its website updated matrices in respect of 190 Member States with their consent.

To date, 184 countries have submitted initial reports providing the Committee with information on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). The effectiveness of the practical steps taken by States to implement the resolution is important. One of the activities in this respect, is for States to develop voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs), as encouraged by Operative Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016). These help to identify actions to close any gaps and vulnerabilities in regulations and national control frameworks, foster interagency cooperation, and identify areas where assistance may be required. In 2020, Colombia and the Dominican Republic submitted their second NAPs, and the number of States that have submitted such plans to the Committee since 2007 now stands at 35.

Member States are in the best position to identify effective national practices, to be shared with the 1540 Committee and other partners. During the last few years, an increasing number of States have undertaken peer reviews. In 2020, the Committee received reports from the Dominican Republic and Panama, and from Paraguay and Uruguay, respectively, on the outcome of two peer reviews organised in 2019, with a view to sharing experiences and good practices in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). To date, five peer reviews have been held globally, three of which were in the Latin American and Caribbean Group region. The Committee looks forward to hearing about the results of further peer reviews and will continue to support States that wish to conduct them, where appropriate.

With regard to the National Points of Contact, in support of the resolution's implementation, to date, a total of 127 Member States, compared to 119 in 2019, have informed the Committee of their points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004). No regional points of contact training courses were conducted in 2020, due to restrictions related to the pandemic.

The Committee plays an important role in facilitating assistance to Member States to fulfil their 1540 obligations, by matching assistance requests from States with offers of assistance, from States or international, regional or subregional organisations. In 2020, States submitted six new requests for assistance to the Committee, compared to eleven in 2019. The Committee received assistance requests from Chile, Colombia, Panama and Zambia, and two from Mongolia. The Committee webpage lists States and international, regional and subregional organisations which offer 1540-related assistance. The Committee stands ready to add new programmes or updated information on assistance to its website. In addition to assistance provided by States and international, regional and subregional organisations, the Committee will undertake visits to States, at their invitation, to discuss national reporting, NAPs, Committee matrices and assistance on implementation measures.

The Committee continues to use its website for outreach to the public. For example, a message from the Chair is published every quarter to those who have subscribed through the website.

In accordance with Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee is conducting a Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004), prior to renewal of its mandate in April 2021. The review is an inclusive process. Contributions by Member States are particularly important and the Committee will invite States, as well as international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and relevant civil society organisations, as appropriate, to participate in open consultations. The Committee began its preparatory work for the Comprehensive Review in October 2019 but, owing to delays caused by the pandemic, and in order that States could plan accordingly, the Chair informed the Security Council, by means of a letter dated 27 August 2020, that the Committee had decided that all remaining activities related to the review, including the open consultations, should be postponed until 2021, with the exception of the process then under way of revising the Committee matrices, and any other activities that could be undertaken in an online format. Member States, international, regional and subregional organisations can submit written comments to the review. In this regard, letters were sent to international, regional and subregional organisations, and UN bodies, on 2 June 2020 inviting them to submit written inputs. To date, 12 have done so.

A central theme of the Comprehensive Review is the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States. The Committee will also address its role in facilitating assistance matchmaking; its collaboration with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations and other United Nations bodies; and its outreach activities. The Committee is mandated to include, if necessary, recommendations on adjustments to its mandate. A report on the Comprehensive Review will be submitted to the Security Council.

The Committee has made progress in the discussion on the period of the technical extension of its mandate, as well as on the contents of its program of work. Though the consultations are still underway, I look forward to having an agreement on these issues in the nearest future.

The 1540 Committee regards the successful completion of the Comprehensive Review as its highest priority.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this briefing.