

Statement to the Security Council
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On behalf of the UN Security Council's Committee overseeing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), I am pleased to report on progress since our last report in April 2018.

We fully endorse the joint statement delivered on behalf of the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee. The key concern for the 1540 Committee is preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials to non-State actors, in particular for terrorist purposes. While the mandates of the three Committees differ, there are important areas of complementarity. Cooperation between the three Committees and their supporting experts is important to promoting the effective implementation by States of their obligations under the respective Security Council resolutions.

However, the 1540 Committee continues to be concerned by the potentially devastating effects and catastrophic consequences of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferation by and to non-State actors, and the use of such weapons for terrorist purposes. Given the global nature of the challenges posed by the proliferation of the capabilities and technologies that can be used by non-State actors for WMD programmes, no State is exempt from making every effort

to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

The full and effective implementation of obligations under resolution 1540 involves a wide range of activities beyond the requisite adoption and enforcement of measures to prohibit non-State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

In that sense, I am pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of States have demonstrated their commitment to resolution 1540, and through their reporting to the 1540 Committee have provided valuable information on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is worthy of note that to date 181 countries – more than 90% of all UN Member States - have submitted initial reports. To this end, two experts will be assisting Mali to prepare its initial report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during an upcoming visit this month. Regular additional reporting and updating is also important so that the status of implementation can be reflected and assessed accurately.

While reporting is important, what also matters is the effectiveness of the practical steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful step in this regard is for States to develop voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP) as encouraged by Operative Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016). If the NAP process is to work, all key national stakeholders must be engaged with implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The voluntary National Implementation Action Plans also help to identify actions to close any gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and national control frameworks, and to identify areas where assistance may be required.

Exchanges and sharing of information by Member States constitutes one of the Committee's core activities. The Member States are in the best position to identify effective national practices and to share them with the 1540 Committee and other partners. As one example, the Committee had an opportunity to hear about the peer review meetings between Chile and Colombia, held in each country respectively in 2017, in relation to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This was the third peer review to take place globally and the first in the Western hemisphere. The discussions highlighted the value of the peer review process for promoting Member States' confidence in sharing information about the challenges of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and generating ideas about effective national implementation practices.

The 1540 Committee recognises the key role of the 1540 National Points of Contact in support of the resolution's implementation. The Committee has developed regional training courses for National Points of Contact, including the most recent ones in Addis Ababa for French-speaking African States, hosted by the African Union, and in Rostov-on-Don, with the support of the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The regional POC training courses, not only aim to enhance the capacity and coordination role of POCs, but have also sought to create a "living network" of POCs to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the Committee and among POCs in the respective regions.

One of the priority areas the Committee is focused on is improving the system of assistance to facilitate Member States' capacity to implement their 1540 obligations. In particular, the Committee seeks to match assistance requests from States with offers from States or international, regional or subregional organisations in a position to provide assistance. By doing so, an assisting State or organisation can respond effectively to requests for assistance. Pending assistance requests are displayed on the 1540 homepage and date back to 2010.

As of today, 21 assistance requests are still open and further assistance is needed. The 1540 Committee webpage also includes lists of States and international, regional and subregional organizations which have offered assistance in general.

As of 30 May 2018, 47 States and 16 organisations have informed the Committee about general assistance programmes that could help facilitate implementation of 1540. Assistance providers are always welcome to update the Committee about their assistance programs. The Committee stand ready to add new programmes or information on available assistance to its website.

The Committee and its Group of Experts have maintained the momentum of outreach events in the course of fulfilling the Committee's Programme of Work. A top priority is direct engagement with States through visits and national roundtables, at their invitation. In the course of this process increased use has been made of the support that can be offered by regional organisations, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and its regional centers.

We have also intensified our engagement with international organisations whose mandates are directly related to resolution 1540 (2004) such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, Interpol, the World Customs Organisation (WCO), as well as those bodies that support related Committees such as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation between the 1540 Committee, its Group of Experts and these international organisations.

Transparency and outreach are vital to the effective implementation of the resolution. With this in mind the Committee is seeking ways to make better use of its website. For example, we have continued to publish a quarterly message from the Chair that goes out to the wider 1540 network, including civil society.

A special effort is being made to engage parliamentarians through, for example, the Interparliamentary Union. In this regard, I will have the honour to deliver a video messages to an upcoming meeting of the IPU. I should stress that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is the responsibility of States. However, effective implementation is more than simply ensuring that legislation or regulations are in place. Among other things, it also requires active engagement between the State and relevant sectors of the Society, including industry, academia and professional associations. An effective partnership between States and industry is also vital to successful non-proliferation efforts. The Wiesbaden process conferences foster such a dialogue between States and Industry.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that the spirit of cooperation and dialogue with the Member States continues to inform the 1540 Committee's activities.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this statement to the Security Council.