

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS  
FORMAL OPEN CONSULTATIONS  
22 June 2016

Excellencies, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

This has been a most illuminating three days. I am confident that the comprehensive review will be all the better for it. The inputs from Member States and the many other participants were substantive and highlighted ways forward to achieve our shared goal of effective implementation of resolution 1540.

I give these closing remarks in my personal capacity.

I found that the combination of plenary debate and thematic discussions was valuable. On the one hand, the plenary sessions allowed us to be informed by Member States, international and regional organizations and elements of civil society. The Committee will examine and learn from their inputs, which were wide-ranging and comprehensive.

On the other hand, the thematic sessions that addressed individually the main themes of the comprehensive review: monitoring and implementation; assistance, including the roles of international organisations and transparency and outreach. The focus and the opportunity for discussion will help the Committee to refine its thinking.

Member States and international and regional organisations, representatives from nongovernmental organisations, academia, professional associations; and industrial enterprises and organisations made valuable contributions to the

consultations. The three side events added ideas on implementation of resolution 1540 as they relate to industry, academia, and biological security.

It was not the intention to draw formal conclusions at these consultations. The Committee needs to reflect on the ideas and proposals put forward.

I hesitate to summarise what transpired. But I will try anyway from my perspective.

Among the points that I gleaned are the following:

- World-wide, full and effective implementation of the resolution is a shared objective, recognizing that its fulfilment will require a long-term commitment from Member States, and support from many relevant organisations – international, regional and sub-regional - and from relevant sectors of civil society.
- International and regional cooperation is essential to give Member States the means to improve their implementation of the resolution;
- Assistance, where it is needed, is crucial, and the tools to provide assistance to Member States need to be sharpened;
- Transparency in the work of the Committee, particularly to all Member States, is important;
- Direct interaction with Member States helps to enhance implementation, especially national visits – ways need to be found to focus these visits to where they are most needed;
- Parliamentarians need to be engaged in resolution 1540 implementation given their legislative and oversight responsibilities;

- Engagement by Member State with their relevant sectors of civil society, including industry, academia and professional associations, is important in raising awareness and improving national implementation;
- The risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is influenced by the evolving nature of terrorism and is further complicated by rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce. Member States and the Committee need to take account of these trends;
- I heard several calls for the Committee to consider the extension, or making indefinite, the length of its mandate (due to end in 2021);
- Likewise I heard some ask that the Committee examine the structure of its support to seek more efficiency.

I know that I have not done justice to the range, detail and subtlety of the ideas put forward. However, I trust that I have captured the sense of the meeting.

Let me end where I began.

I said at the opening that success in achieving full and effective implementation of the resolution can come only from an effort in which all Member States participate. Also needed is strong cooperation between Member States – and between them and all relevant elements of the international community and sectors of civil society.

Your participation in these consultations demonstrates that this is happening.

I said that the comprehensive review should identify ways to improve implementation of the resolution by Member States. I also said that proposals should be specific, clearly defined and to the point. They should be appropriate – respecting the needs and rich diversity of circumstances of Member States.

These Consultations have provided the Committee with advice and proposals that will help it accomplish its objectives for the Comprehensive Review.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to offer thanks to those who made the consultation possible. This is to say, the Department of Political Affairs (the Committee's Secretariat), the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee's Group of Experts and, of course, you, the participants, who have travelled from far and wide contribute to our work.

Finally, on behalf of all of us I would like to thank the interpreters for their excellent work over the past three days.

I now declare the proceedings closed.

END