

Wilton Park meeting on resolution 1540 (2004)

Statement by H.E. Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Resolution 1540 (2004), adopted 15 years ago, is a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture. Its objective is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons (weapons of mass destruction), as well as their means of delivery, to and by non-State actors, including terrorists. Full and effective implementation of the resolution is in principle crucial to preventing potentially catastrophic consequences that could result from the use of these weapons by non-State actors.

Resolution 1540 defines non-State actors as individuals or entities, not acting under the lawful authority of any State in conducting activities which come within the scope of the resolution. Activities which come within the scope of the resolution are listed in operative paragraph two as manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in such activities, to participate in them as an accomplice, to assist or to finance them. Non-State actors could include therefore, as well as terrorists, manufacturers, traders, financiers or other relevant individuals or entities.

The Security Council has approved a number of successor resolutions to 1540. Under operative paragraph two of one of these, resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years until 25 April 2021. Under operative paragraph three of that resolution the Security Council decided “that the 1540 Committee will conduct a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), both after five years and prior to the renewal of its mandate, including, if necessary, recommendations on adjustments to the mandate, and will submit to the Security Council a report on the conclusions of those reviews, and decides that, accordingly, the first review should be held before December 2016”.

The first of these two comprehensive reviews, conducted by the Committee in 2016, resulted in the adoption of resolution 2325 (2016) that outlined the focus of the work of the Committee until the end of its current mandate on 25 April 2021.

The Committee has now initiated the second of the two reviews.

It is vital that resolution 1540 remains fit for purpose as the centrepiece of international efforts to prevent the exploitation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

I and the Committee members represented here look forward to participating in discussions over the next three days. I hope that the results of this meeting will help the Committee in identifying issues that the review might need to consider in the run-up to renewal of the Committee's mandate in April 2021.

Thank you.