

**Message from the Chair of the 1540 Committee for the Resolution 1540
(2004) Regional Seminar Islamabad, Pakistan
14 March 2017**

As Chair of the Security Council's resolution 1540 Committee I offer congratulations to the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for taking the initiative in organising and hosting this important regional seminar. I should mention in particular Pakistan's generous contribution and hospitality in providing "in-kind" support for the participants. This practical contribution is vital to making the event possible.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to express our appreciation of the participation of the representatives of States and international organisations, who have travelled from far and wide to be in Islamabad for this event. Your presence is a tribute to the importance of the topic of this gathering -- United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). I am honoured and pleased to have assumed my two-year tenure in January this year as Chair of the Committee that oversees the implementation of the resolution. My country recognises the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) as a vital element in the global architecture to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to non-State actors, especially terrorists. Properly implemented world-wide, it is a major contribution towards preventing a humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe should any of these weapons be used to cause large-scale casualties and suffering. It is clear that such a possibility is not just theoretical.

Flowing from the outcome of the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the previous five years, resolution 2325 was adopted on 15 December 2016. This resolution reinforced the commitment to implementing the obligations of the original 2004 resolution. The high number of co-sponsors of resolution 2325 (2016) is a testament to the importance Member States continue to attribute to resolution 1540 (2004). My own country is among the 77 Member States that co-sponsored resolution 2325 (2016) - the third highest number of co-sponsors to any Security Council resolution so far. The Committee takes great encouragement from this global

support to make the world a safer place as part of the effort to prevent the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

In its resolution 2325 the Security Council decided (in operative paragraph 12) that the “Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote full implementation”. And while taking a comprehensive approach to promoting the implementation of the obligations, the Council drew on the experience recorded in the Comprehensive Review report by particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment measures.” It would be a great help to gain an insight, through your deliberations here, into the challenges faced in your region in reinforcing the effort to achieve more effective implementation in the areas indicated by the Security Council.

The Committee intends to build on the momentum imparted by this reinforcing resolution through the Committee’s Programme of Work agreed for 2017. In that programme the Committee agreed that it “should continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ...”.

I should stress that the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is the responsibility of States. However, the history of its implementation shows us that sometimes collaboration with international and regional organisations can contribute to its success. However, in the words of the 2016 Comprehensive Review report, and reflected by the Security Council in its resolution 2325 (2016), “there remains more to be done to accomplish the objective of full implementation of the resolution ...that requires continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels”. This initiative by Pakistan certainly represents an immensely valuable step in the direction called for by the Security Council.

The Committee’s 2017 Programme of Work, pointing to the need for a comprehensive approach to promoting implementation, notes the value of “States’ efforts at outreach dialogue, assistance and cooperation”. Regional gatherings, such as this in Islamabad, are an important way to promote the kind

of co-operation needed for effective implementation of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004).

Regional meetings of States are very important to gaining an insight into the challenges faced by States in the effective implementation of the resolution. There is no “once size fits all” approach to implementation but rather a common set of responsibilities. As resolution 2325 (2016) states in its Operative Paragraph 11, the 1540 Committee should “take account of the specificity of States” in exploring and developing its approach to its task of promoting implementation.

In this context, I would like to draw attention to the preamble to resolution 2325 (2016) on the importance of dialogue between the 1540 Committee and Member States, including by visits to States, at their invitation. It is clear from the 2016 Comprehensive Review report that such visits, and national round tables, have contributed importantly to facilitating implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I know that there are a number of States represented among the participants here that have benefited from such visits by Committee members and our supporting Group of Experts. It is in the course of such interactions that necessary insight is gained into how the specific issues faced by individual States are best tackled. I encourage States that feel they would benefit from such engagement with the Committee to invite us to assist in this way, as appropriate.

As you are all no doubt aware, there are means to request assistance formally through the Committee to help build the capacity, where needed, for effective implementation of the resolution. This assistance can be provided by States with the ability to do so and by international organisations, some of which I am glad to know are represented at the meeting. The Committee recognises that the system for the provision of assistance to those in need requires improvement. To help us in this task I ask States ready and willing to provide assistance to inform the Committee accordingly, giving details of the assistance they are ready to give. A number of those States represented at the meeting have already done so - for that the Committee is most grateful. For those States that are in need of assistance, I urge them to submit requests without delay and with as much detail as possible on their needs. There are two members of our Group of Experts with you at the meeting who can help you in formulating your requests

along with, as appropriate, the representatives of the international organisations also present.

As I mentioned earlier cooperation between States is a key element in promoting effective implementation. In this regard I would like to point to valuable players in this regard. These are the national 1540 Points of Contact. In those States where they have been designated; not only do they play an important role in their own countries as a focal point for national stakeholders in the implementation of the resolution, they are also valuable to promoting cooperation between States.

I strongly support the initiatives taken by some States to host training courses for national 1540 Points of Contact. Indeed resolution 2325 (2016), in its operative paragraph 6, “urges the Committee to continue to undertake initiatives to strengthen the capacity of such Points of Contact to assist on the implementation of the resolution, upon request of States, including through the continuation on a regional basis of the Committee’s Point of Contact Training Programme” The most recent course was held in my own region hosted by Chile in Santiago.

However, for the Asia-Pacific region, I must acknowledge China that hosted the first training course in September 2015 in Qingdao. I understand that China is planning to host a second course for the region later this year.

For OSCE States, some of which are represented at this seminar, the Russian Federation hosted the second Points of Contact training course in June of last year in Kaliningrad.

These efforts are good examples of valuable cooperative initiatives by States in contributing to effective implementation. At the same time I must also acknowledge the important contribution that the international organisations represented have made by providing instructors for these training courses.

A further effort at regional cooperation I would like to salute is that by the Republic of Korea in hosting a conference in 2016 on 1540 implementation for industry in the Asia-Pacific region. I welcome this support for effective implementation as the Committee’s Programme of Work that is aimed at

encouraging States to develop appropriate ways to work with industry, including support to regional meetings with industry.

The Committee is always looking for ways to improve its cooperation with regional organisations. I was pleased that the Committee had the opportunity to send a member of its Group of Experts last week to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum's (ARF) inter-sessional meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament to speak, at their request, on the impact of Resolution 2325 (2016) and other developments that are relevant to the ARF members and to focus on assistance and capacity building available to States to help in the implementation of their 1540 obligations. This is a good example of the Committee's increasing collaboration with regional organisations around the world.

Looking through your agenda for the next two days I can see that you are going to get into the details of effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Sharing effective practices among States is a very important aspect of events such as this. From the Committee's perspective, I hope that there will be truly inter-active discussions. The Committee and its Experts need to gain the best possible understanding of individual concerns of States regarding implementation in order to focus their efforts on the best ways to support implementation. This is particularly important given the limited human and financial resources at its disposal for this purpose.

This leads me, on behalf of the Committee, to thank States from the Asia-Pacific region that have made substantial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities directly in support of 1540 implementation - namely Japan and the Republic of Korea. Without these contributions, and of States in other regions, the Committee would be severely hampered in fulfilling its mandate in overseeing the implementation of the resolution and in facilitating help in capacity-building where it is most needed. As indicated earlier in my message, the contributions in kind are invaluable too – such as the hosting of the Points of Contact training courses; as well as, coming full circle, Pakistan's practical support by its initiative in putting forward the idea, and hosting, this regional conference.

In its operative paragraph 10 resolution 2325 (2016) “*Calls upon* all States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), focusing, when and where appropriate, on areas where measures should be taken and strengthened”. The Committee looks forward to the outcome of your deliberations to better understand how it can assist States in the Asian region to advance the cause of full implementation.

The Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts, stands ready to cooperate with and, as requested, to facilitate assistance to States with their 1540 implementation efforts that would contribute to achieving our common objective to prevent the catastrophic use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

Finally, on behalf of the 1540 Committee, I should reaffirm that its mandate will be implemented with respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

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