

VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE FIRST ANNUAL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DIAN TRIANSYAH DJANI, CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to express our thanks to the Government of India for the invitation to address this First Annual Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Programme. Regrettably, due to other pressing commitments, the Committee is unable to be with you in person.

At the outset, we appreciate the opportunity to address during this event the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), the challenges to its implementation and its continued importance and relevance in curbing the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery to and by non-State actors, including terrorists. We also would like to commend the Government of India for its commitment to strengthening implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Ladies and gentlemen,

Resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital and integral component of the global non-proliferation architecture. It fills important gaps in relation to the scope of existing international instruments because it concerns non-State actors. The resolution requires States to maintain or adopt effective controls over materials related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems. The resolution seeks neither to replace existing norms nor alter the rights and obligations of States Parties under existing international instruments such as the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Instead, resolution 1540 (2004) seeks to complement and reinforce the global non-proliferation regime.

One of the key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) is for States to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from manufacturing, acquiring,

possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any such activities, to participate in them as an accomplice or to assist or finance them. The requirement to adopt appropriate and effective laws in this regard is particularly relevant legislators

As you are no doubt aware, the potential effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation to and by non-State actors, and in particular their use for terrorist acts, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences. Regrettably, the recently reported use or attempt of use of chemical weapons by non-State actors in some parts of the world, and the continued prevalence of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear, chemical and biological weapons related materials, illustrate that this is not merely a theoretical possibility. In addition, although globalization and rapid advances in science and new emerging technologies have brought about increased and welcome opportunities for socio-economic development, they have also led to additional complexities and potential risks, including with respect to non-State actor access to materials and technologies that can be used for both legitimate and proliferation purposes.

Given the global nature of the threat, no State, irrespective of its geographical location or level of development, can argue that it is somehow insulated and that it consequently has no need to adopt appropriate and effective measures or to adapt these to changing circumstances. It is also clear that national authorities cannot achieve non-proliferation objectives by acting alone. Close co-operation between States, and co-ordination with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations is required as recognized by UN Security Council resolution 2325 (2016). Effective implementation furthermore requires active engagement by States with their relevant national actors, including industry, academia and professional associations. Indeed, while there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) given the unique circumstances prevailing in each State, much can be achieved through the sharing of experience

Since its adoption by unanimous decision of the Security Council on 28 April 2004, significant progress has been made towards the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Following a Comprehensive Review of the resolution conducted by the Security Council in 2016, resolution 2325 (2016) recognised that full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remain a long-term task and will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

The resolution repeats previous calls for States that have not yet presented a first report – on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement the resolution – to submit such a report without delay. The 1540 Committee has been encouraging the remaining 11 non-reporting States to submit their outstanding reports.

Full implementation of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) by all states is an essential step towards our common goal of preventing the catastrophic exploitation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists. The 1540 Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts, remains ready to cooperate with and, upon request, facilitate assistance to States in achieving full implementation.

Since its adoption in early 2005, the 1540 Matrix has functioned as the primary method used by the 1540 Committee to organize information about implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 by Member States. The information in the matrices originates primarily from national reports provided by States to the 1540 Committee and is used as a reference tool for facilitating technical assistance and to enable the Committee to continue to enhance its dialogue with States on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It is important to note that the matrices are not a tool for measuring compliance of States in their non-proliferation obligations but only for facilitating the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008), 1977 (2011) and 2325 (2016).

To enhance its capacity to better monitor implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee considered and approved in 2017 a revised matrix format. The changes made streamlined the existing matrix by better reflecting the obligations contained in resolution 1540 (2004). In accordance with resolution 2325 (2016), the revised matrix also takes into account the specificity of States with respect to their ability to manufacture and export related materials.

Exchanges and sharing of information by Member States, including through promoting peer reviews, to evaluate and reinforce effective practices in effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), 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. The peer review meetings conducted by Colombia and Chile and by Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan respectively in 2017 constitute very good examples of this effective mechanism. 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 47 States and 16 organisations have informed the Committee about general assistance programmes that could help facilitate implementation of 1540.

Achieving the full implementation of resolution 1540 will require a collaborative effort. The active participation of the Member States will be much needed. I very much look forward to engaging with the Government of India over the coming months on this crucially important endeavour.

In the meantime, I wish you every success in your future careers in the Disarmament and Nonproliferation fields.