

STATEMENT TO THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR ON ENGAGING  
PARLIAMENTS OF THE PACIFIC REGION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

HE Mr Dian Triansyah Djan, 1540 Committee Chair

19 September 2019 – Wellington, New Zealand

Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the invitation to address this Regional Parliamentary Seminar on Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Let me, at the outset, commend IPU for its role in promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in other regions, for example, the successful 2016 IPU meeting in the African region, hosted by the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire.

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 adoption of such appropriate and effective laws is particularly relevant to the mandate of Parliamentarians.

The potential effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation to and by non-State actors, particularly their use for terrorist acts, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences. The reported use of chemical weapons by non-State actors in some parts of the world illustrates that this is not merely a theoretical possibility. In addition, globalisation, rapid advances in science and emerging technologies have brought about increased opportunities for socio-economic development, but have also led to additional risks, including with respect to non-State actor access to technologies that can be used for both legitimate and proliferation purposes.

Given the global nature of these challenges, no State, irrespective of its geographical location or level of development, is insulated from such threats. Effective domestic, border and export controls over nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, are not only a security imperative, but can also help establish the necessary trust between States to facilitate and further enhance legitimate trade and thus economic development.

National authorities cannot achieve the overall objective of resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent proliferation by non-State actors by acting alone. Close cooperation between States and, as appropriate, co-ordination with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations is required, as recognised in UN Security Council resolution 2325 (2016). Effective implementation also requires active engagement between the State and relevant national actors, including industry, academia and professional associations. This is an area where Parliamentarians have an important role to play, particularly in raising awareness of the threat

posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to and by non-State actors and building partnerships with all relevant actors at a national level.

Since its adoption in 2004, significant progress has been made towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States; however, much remains to be done. Resolution 2325 (2016) repeats previous Security Council calls upon States that have not yet done so, to submit a first report to the 1540 Committee without delay. Ten States have yet to do this. The 1540 Committee remains ready to co-operate with Member States in this respect. In addition, some States continue to require assistance in the implementation of their obligations. The Committee remains ready to facilitate assistance to States, upon request, with their 1540 implementation efforts.

I will conclude my remarks by noting that the Security Council decided the 1540 Committee will conduct a Comprehensive Review prior to the renewal of the Committee's mandate under Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution 1977, which was adopted in 2011. Preparations for the Comprehensive Review are well underway and the Committee has adopted a Modalities Paper and Tentative Plan of Activities to guide the operation of the Review next year.

Together with the Committee I look forward to continuing to work with the IPU towards our common objective of preventing the catastrophic use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by non-State actors.

Thank you.