

OPENING REMARKS AND BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RESOLUTION 1540 (2004), WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE “SPECIFICITY OF STATES” BY THE 1540 COMMITTEE CHAIR DURING THE OPEN CONSULTATIONS WITH UN MEMBER STATES, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS, ECOSOC CHAMBER, 4 OCTOBER 2019

Opening

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the 1540 Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to these open consultations on the “specificity of States”. This is the first open consultations that the Committee plans to convene during 2019 and 2020 with UN Member States, as well as international and regional organisations, in preparation for the 2021 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The objective of these consultations is to provide opportunities for Member States, international and regional organisations, as well as civil society, to contribute their views, analysis and recommendations on different subjects related to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540.

The 2021 Comprehensive Review provides us with an opportunity to strengthen, where necessary and appropriate, the system that resolution 1540 (2004) has established and to make it even more effective. The Committee therefore looks forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions on how to improve implementation of the resolution.

Brief overview of resolution 1540 (2004), with specific reference to the “specificity of States”

Let me now provide a brief introduction to resolution 1540 with specific reference to the issue of the “specificity of States”.

Since its adoption on 28 April in 2004, resolution 1540 has become a vital and integral component of the international non-proliferation architecture, and primary guidance for the international community’s efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to and by

non-State actors. The resolution imposes binding obligations on all States to prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. It also obliges all States to take and enforce appropriate and effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery. While resolution 1540 is clear on what States should do to implement their obligations, it is not prescriptive in terms of how this should be done.

The focus of today's open consultations is on operative paragraph 11 of resolution 2325, which urges the 1540 Committee "to continue to explore and develop an approach, with regard to implementation and reporting, that takes into account the specificity of States, inter alia, with respect to their ability to manufacture and export related materials, with a view to prioritizing efforts and resources where they are most needed without affecting the need for comprehensive implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)". In this regard, the 2016 Comprehensive Review report highlighted the need to consider the specificity of the State in the assessment of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It noted that in the recording of measures into the Committee matrix, no account is taken of any of the differences between States, for example, a State's industrial capabilities, the nature of its industry, regional circumstances or its role in the global supply chain. The report notes that it might be useful to do so with a view to giving a better representation of the status of States' implementation of the resolution.

The Committee looks forward to listening to the views, experiences and recommendations of Member States and international and regional organisations, including possible criteria and methodologies for an approach by the Committee in monitoring implementation that would take into account the specificity of States. We also look forward to your views and recommendations on the role and utility of regional organisations and regional 1540 co-ordinators on the specificity of States.