

**OPEN BRIEFING FOR MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND
SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)**

Statement by the Chair of the 1540 Committee

9 October 2024

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

As the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I am honored to welcome you here and to inform you about the work of the Committee.

In 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1540 under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter affirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The resolution obliges States, *inter alia*, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The resolution mandated the establishment of the 1540 Committee and to call on other expertise as appropriate and report to the Security Council for its examination, on the implementation of the resolution.

The Committee's mandate in supporting and monitoring national implementation, assistance to Member States, cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations (IROs), as well as transparency and outreach is reflected in various provisions not only under resolution 1540, but also in successor resolutions. With the aim of continuous improvement of its mandate, it is important to flag the importance of receiving periodic updates by Member States, on their own initiative, regarding their efforts. Let me highlight that the Open Briefing represents a good opportunity to take note of the steps undertaken by States to implement resolution 1540, with a view of identifying priorities for assisting States with this process.

Most recently, in November 2022, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2663, extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years.

Operative paragraph 26 of resolution 2663 directed the Committee to convene open briefings for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations. This open briefing is intended to provide you with such a summary of activities of the Committee on all aspects of resolution 1540, including on assistance matters.

Furthermore, this open briefing aims to provide an opportunity for Member States and IROs to present their offers of assistance, and for Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The 1540 Committee is mandated to report to the Security Council for its examination, on the implementation of resolution 1540. Beyond periodic reviews conducted in 2006, 2008 and 2011, comprehensive reviews were conducted in 2009, 2016 and 2022. Moreover, annual reviews have been provided to the Security Council since 2012. I recommend referring to these reviews, which can be easily found on the 1540 Committee website for a detailed accounting of work done in support of the implementation of resolution 1540.

Unless otherwise noted, the period of activity covered by my remarks about Committee implementation activities begins in December 2022, after the adoption of resolution 2663 in November 2022, which mandated the convening of open briefings.

As a general overview of the Committee's efforts to implement its mandate, as well as the tasks set out in resolution 2663, it should be noted that the continuous work covering diverse aspects of national implementation, assistance, cooperation with IROs, transparency, and outreach, as reflected in the twentieth programme of work and the ongoing twenty-first programme of work provides a concise overview of our common priorities. Among others, it may be worth to highlight the progress made in Committee's work on voluntary technical guides to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540, on activities related to paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 regarding a compilation and general examination of information on the status of States' implementation of resolution 1540, on Committee's assistance mechanism and its related procedures, as well as on cooperation with other Security Council subsidiary bodies.

Beginning with national implementation topics, resolution 1540 calls upon States to present reports to the Committee on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement the resolution. In all, 185 Member States have submitted reports, leaving eight States still to do so.

To encourage submission of reports from the remaining States, the Committee transmitted correspondence to these States in May 2023 and in June 2024, reaffirming that the Committee remains ready to assist on this matter or any other issue related to the implementation of resolution 1540. Additionally, bilateral meetings with representatives from non-reporting States were held in 2024 by the Chair. . I encourage them to implement this provision in the context of the global scope of resolution 1540 and the importance of contributions of everyone.

Successor resolutions to resolution 1540 encourage States to prepare on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee and its expertise as appropriate, to map out their priorities and plans for implementing key provisions of resolution 1540. In all, 47 such plans have been received by the Committee from 38 States, while more States are in the process of preparing or updating their national action plans.

During the reporting period, the Committee visited five countries, at their invitation, to assist with preparing their voluntary national implementation action plans and provided assistance to one State, as requested, for drafting a national report.

Acknowledging that Member States are in the best position to identify effective national practices, the Committee recognizes the need to promote the sharing of experience, including through voluntary peer reviews and other means to evaluate and reinforce effective practices. The 1540 Committee has registered five new peer reviews, including three consecutive rounds between some States.

Regarding assistance for States to implement their obligations, resolution 1540 recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of the resolution and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance, as appropriate, in response to specific requests from States. Additionally, States are encouraged to convey their assistance requests to the Committee. In all, six requests for assistance were submitted to the Committee since December 2022.

To facilitate access to available information for Member States in need of assistance, the Committee website presents a current list of States and IROs which offer resolution 1540-related assistance. The total number of offers of assistance from States and IROs, is 46 Member States and 20 IROs. Fortunately, during this open briefing we will have the opportunity to hear from Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation, and from providers of assistance, including possible new provider candidates, to present their offers of assistance.

The Committee encourages States and IROs which offer 1540-related assistance to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee and Member States on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540. The Committee will also continue to make progress on its assistance matchmaking mechanism, noting ongoing management of any feedback received from requesting States on the status of pending request for assistance, and continue to undertake visits to States, at their invitation, to discuss national reporting, national action plans and assistance on implementation measures. Therefore, I encourage interested participants to use this mechanism.

The 1540 Committee welcomes and encourages efforts by international, regional and subregional organizations to support Member States in their implementation of resolution 1540. The Committee has participated in many events organized by these organizations, including for the purposes of general awareness-raising of the requirements of resolution 1540, or to focus on specific thematic areas relevant to the resolution. This provides me with the opportunity to highlight the central and coordinating role of the Committee in the sphere of implementation of resolution 1540, and to note that the Committee stands ready to cooperate closely with all UN Member States and the relevant IROs for reaching the goals of the resolution.

The 1540 Committee participated in relevant events organized or hosted by various international bodies, i.e., in a total of 19 events in 2023 and 12 events in 2024.

The Committee will organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 at the international, regional, subregional and as appropriate, national levels, including on specific thematic and regional issues, and will invite, as appropriate, parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, industry and academia. Some of these events are organized by Member States in cooperation with the 1540 Committee, as well as by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and other UN bodies. IROs were sent correspondence from the Committee on 1 April 2024, encouraging them to inform the Committee of events they may organize relevant to resolution 1540 (2004). This would help the Committee to develop, in agreement with the relevant Member States, a multi-year programme of outreach to States.

For instance, the Committee participated in one regional POC training course co-organized by the 1540 Committee and UNODA in Beijing, China, in June 2024, in cooperation with the Government of China. A second regional training course is planned to be conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2024.

Additionally, the 1540 Chair attended 3 events in 2023 and 8 events in 2024, to date, while the members of the Group of Experts attended 32 events in 2023 and 20 events in 2024, to date.

To support implementation of its obligations under resolution 1540, the Committee held one informal and seven formal meetings in 2023, and an additional [three] formal meetings in 2024. These meetings focused on the actions necessary to implement the approved 1540 Committee programme of work.

In keeping with the Security Council's request, the 1540 Committee continued to use its website for outreach and enhancing transparency of its activities. We recently completed an update of the 1540 Committee's website, and I encourage you to visit it as it is a comprehensive repository of all documents, references, and information related to resolution 1540 and successor resolutions since their adoption.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, thank you for your attention and I am hopeful this overall summary of information about activities of the Committee on all aspects of resolution 1540 is helpful for you.

Before I finish, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Committee members for their efforts in support of the Committee's work, to the Committee's support structure composed of the Group of Experts, officials in ODA and DPPA and, finally, my staff for their invaluable support to the Committee.

Thank you very much.