

**Briefing to the Security Council by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to  
resolution 1540 (2004) on 14 March 2022**

Madam President,

As the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I am honored to address the Security Council on the work of the Committee since the last briefing, on 30 March 2021.

Resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. States have made significant progress in the full implementation of the resolution. Nevertheless, gaps remain and the full and effective implementation of the resolution is a long-term task.

During 2021 and early 2022, in the face of continuing travel and other restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee maintained the precautionary measures that were adopted in 2020. Most business was conducted virtually, although four in-person Committee meetings were held. In comparison with 19 events in 2020, most of them virtual, in 2021 the Committee participated in one in-person and 23 virtual events.

In the reporting period, the Committee has continued to conduct the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004), in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1977 (2011), as one of its main priorities. In April 2021, under resolution 2572 (2021), the Committee's mandate was renewed until 28 February 2022, and under resolution 2622 (2022) adopted on 25 February, further extended until 30 November 2022 to allow for the completion of the Review.

A central theme of the Comprehensive Review is the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States. The Committee is also addressing its role in facilitating assistance matchmaking; its collaboration with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations and other United Nations bodies; and its outreach activities.

The review is an inclusive process. While contributions by Member States, who bear the primary responsibility for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), will be given high importance, the Committee will also invite international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and relevant civil society organisations to participate in Open Consultations to ensure wide-ranging consultations. Further details on said Open Consultations will be communicated soon as expectations and interest have remained high.

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Also during the reporting period, Mozambique submitted its first national report with information on the measures taken to comply with its obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). This brings to 185 the number of Member States who have now submitted first reports, leaving eight States still to do so.

One helpful activity in implementing resolution 1540 is the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) by States as encouraged by Operative Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016). The number of States that have submitted such plans to the Committee since 2007 now stands at 35, a number unchanged since my last report to the Security Council. However, during the reporting period, the Committee supported two States, namely Botswana and Mongolia, who are in the process of developing said action plans.

Acknowledging that Member States are in the best position to identify effective national practices and to share them with the 1540 Committee and other partners, to date, five peer reviews have been held globally, a number which remains unchanged since my last report to the Committee. The Committee looks forward to hearing about the results of further peer reviews and will continue to support States that wish to conduct them, where appropriate.

To date, a total of 136 Member States, compared to 127 in 2020, have informed the Committee of their points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004). No regional points of contact training courses were conducted in 2021 due to restrictions related to the pandemic, however, the Committee hopes to resume such training courses as soon as circumstances permit.

The Committee plays an important role in facilitating assistance to Member States to fulfil their 1540 obligations, by matching assistance requests from States with offers of assistance, from States or international, regional or subregional organisations. In 2021, States submitted four new requests for assistance to the Committee, compared to six in 2020. The Committee received assistance requests from Botswana, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Committee webpage lists States and international, regional and subregional organisations which offer 1540-related assistance. The Committee stands ready to add new programmes or updated information on assistance to its website. In addition to assistance provided by States and international, regional and subregional organisations the Committee and its Group of Experts will undertake visits to States, at their invitation, to discuss national reporting, national action plans, Committee matrices and assistance on implementation measures.

The Committee will continue to use its website and the Chair's quarterly message for outreach and enhancing transparency of Committee's activities. Information relating to participation in outreach  
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events, as well as statements (including video-messages) delivered by the Chair or on his behalf are regularly uploaded to the Committee's website.

Madam President,

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow Committee members for their efforts in support of the Committee's work, and to the Group of Experts, officials in ODA and DPPA, and my staff for the invaluable support to the Committee.

Thank you.