

**Briefing to the Security Council by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on 23 March 2023**

Mr. 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 14 March 2022.

Resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture to prevent non-State actors, from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, particularly for terrorist purposes. While steady progress was recorded in its implementation, and acknowledging the complexities of its implementation across obligations, weapons categories and regions, the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) remains a long-term task.

I am pleased to report that in 2022, as restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic eased, the Committee was able to conduct most of its business by means of in-person meetings supplemented by occasional virtual meetings. In 2022, the Committee held two formal and five informal meetings. The Committee participated in 15 in-person and 14 virtual outreach events in 2022 in comparison, in 2021, with one in-person and 23 virtual events.

In particular during the reporting period, following the adoption of resolution 2622 (2022) of 25 February and the extension of the mandate of the Committee until 30 November 2022, the Committee successfully completed the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004) in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1977 (2011).

The focus of the Comprehensive Review was the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States. The Committee also addressed 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 was an inclusive process and the Committee held open consultations with Member States, and international, regional and sub-regional organisations. Relevant civil society organisations also participated in informal setting.

Under resolution 2663 (2022), unanimously adopted on 30 November 2022, the mandate of the Committee was extended for a period of 10 years until 30 November 2032.

Mr. President,

During the reporting period no States submitted first national reports with information on measures taken to comply with obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). The number of

Member States which have submitted first reports remains at 185, 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 8 of resolution 2663 (2022). The number of States that have submitted such plans to the Committee since 2007 now stands at 38, an increase of three since the last report to the Security Council.

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. Seven peer reviews have been held globally to date, an increase of two since the 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 142 Member States, compared to 136 in 2021, have informed the Committee of their points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004). No regional points of contact training courses were conducted since 2020 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 2022, no new requests for assistance requiring match-making were submitted to the Committee, compared to four requests received in 2021. The Committee received in 2022 requests for technical and financial support for national events from Madagascar and Sierra Leone.

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, with the support of its Group of Experts, will continue to 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 events, as well as statements (including video-messages) delivered by the Chair or on his behalf are regularly uploaded to the Committee's website.

Mr. President,

Looking forward, under my letter of 16 February 2023 I transmitted to the President of the Security Council the twentieth programme of work of the Committee, covering the period from 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024. This includes a comprehensive list of the Committee's planned activities to support full implementation of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) by all Member States, in the areas of outreach by the Committee, the Committee's assistance mechanism, cooperation with international, regional and subregional organisations, and transparency.

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 their invaluable support to the Committee.

Thank you.