

**Briefing to the Security Council by the Chair of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on 2 December 2021**

(stand-alone brief to accompany Joint Briefing by three Committees)

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I am honoured to report on progress made since our last Joint Briefing in November 2020. We fully endorse the joint statement delivered on behalf of the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee.

While the mandate of the 1540 Committee differs from the other two Committees, there are important areas of complementarity. Resolution 1540 (2004) is a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture to prevent non-State actors, including those identified by the Security Council and referred to in resolution 1540 (2004), from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. The devastating and potentially catastrophic consequences that could arise from the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons by such actors remain a matter of serious concern to the international community. Furthermore, the fact that such actors are ready to use violence in various parts of the world also remains a serious concern.

States have made significant progress towards the full implementation of the resolution. Nevertheless, as demonstrated by the updated Committee's matrices, some gaps remain. As recognised in Security Council resolution 2325 of 2016, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 is a long-term task. Resolution 2325 also reiterates the need to enhance cooperation among the three Committees.

In 2019 the Committee began to conduct a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Owing to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the work of the Committee, a number of planned activities, including open consultations had to be postponed. While the 1540 Committee regards the successful completion of the Comprehensive Review as a high priority, the scheduling of the comprehensive review related activities has been delayed due to the ongoing pandemic-related restrictions in the UN Headquarters. The Committee continues to engage with the UN Secretariat and considers how best to organize the pending activities.

During 2021 the Committee has held three in-person meetings. Furthermore, the Committee has continued to conduct activities to promote the full and effective implementation of the resolution and to assist States, upon request, in strengthening national capacity. To date the Committee has participated in 19 outreach events organized by States and international, regional and international organisations and relevant civil society.

To date 184 countries have submitted initial reports to the Committee with information on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). The effectiveness of the practical steps taken by States to implement the resolution is important, and one of the measures States can consider in this respect is to develop voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs), as encouraged by Operative Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016). These help to identify actions to close any gaps and vulnerabilities in regulations and

national control frameworks, foster interagency cooperation, and identify areas where assistance may be required. The total number of States that have submitted such plans to the Committee since 2007 now stands at 35.

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 from international, regional or subregional organisations. In 2021 States submitted 3 new requests for assistance to the Committee, compared to 5 in 2020. The Committee received assistance requests from Botswana, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan. In addition to assistance provided by States and international, regional and subregional organisations, the Committee will continue to undertake visits to States, at their invitation, to discuss national reporting, NAPs, Committee matrices and assistance on implementation measures. The Committee continues to use its website for outreach to the public.

The Committee will continue to enhance information-sharing, coordination on visits to countries, technical assistance and other issues of relevance to the Committee and the 1267 Committee and CTC, as appropriate, and will continue to brief the Security Council jointly with these two Committees accordingly every year.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that a cooperative approach and dialogue with the Member States continues to inform the 1540 Committee's activities.