

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 5 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of Estonia on the annual briefing of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) to the Security Council, prepared in accordance with paragraph 2 of Council resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#) (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani for his informative and comprehensive briefing and commend him and his team for leading the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). He can count on the support of Estonia for promoting the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Resolution 1540 (2004) remains one of the most critical instruments for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. Over the years, it has shown its relevance in raising awareness of the relevant threats and vulnerabilities and helping States to increase their capacity to reduce them. The risk of terrorists or other non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction continues to be real. The use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is a recent reminder of this. In this context, it is important to encourage Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or the equipment necessary for their production.

Effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) depends greatly on the existence and enforcement of appropriate national regulations and control frameworks and mechanisms. Among others, this includes putting in place effective controls on delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, preventing the financing of illicit transactions related to weapons of mass destruction and controlling areas of biological research and development. Ambassador Djani mentioned in his briefing the voluntary national implementation action plans. We agree with the Chair that the action plans are useful tools in identifying gaps and vulnerabilities in regulations and control mechanisms so that necessary and appropriate action can follow. We encourage States to continue to submit their national implementation action plans and share their best practices.

In this context, it is also encouraging to see that the number of States that have submitted their first reports to the Committee has reached 184. We welcome the last additions by the Central African Republic and Solomon Islands. We encourage those States that have not yet submitted their reports to do so without delay.

Effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) can be further improved by assistance and cooperation measures. We welcome the work the Committee has done in facilitating the provision of assistance by matching requests of States with offers of assistance from other States or international, regional and subregional organizations. We equally welcome the active engagement and cooperation with international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and with civil society, industry and academia. The biannual Wiesbaden process conferences provide a good example of how private sector engagement can provide support in identifying measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

This is an important year for the Committee. Prior to the renewal of its mandate in April 2021, it is conducting a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Although, under the conditions of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, parts of the meetings and events for the review process have been postponed, we find it essential that all interested States can contribute to and participate meaningfully in the process. Estonia stands ready to

ensure that the process is inclusive, thorough and effective and takes into account the evolving nature of the risks of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

To conclude, I would like to also thank the dedicated and professional work of the Expert Group of the Committee. Their expertise and knowledge provide a great support to the work of the Committee.
