

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
8 May 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 29 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I transmit herewith South Africa's national statement (see annex) in relation to the briefing of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) with respect to the work of the Committee.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated to the members of the Security Council and be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Permanent Representative of South Africa
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 29 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Jerry Matjila on the Security Council written report on resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)

29 April 2020

South Africa would like to join others in thanking Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), on the work of the Committee since May 2019. We also thank you for providing us with an overview of the work of the Committee during the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution.

The resolution remains one of the most critical instruments in preventing non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing and transferring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. South Africa believes that full and effective implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) is a long-term task and we value the collaborative role of the Committee in assisting States with their obligations under this resolution.

With regard to the implementation of the mandate contained in resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), South Africa believes the Committee should continue its awareness-raising activities to ensure that all States are aware of their obligations under the relevant resolutions. It, however, remains the prerogative of States to decide which measures are effective, appropriate or necessary in accordance with their national procedures, as set out in operative paragraph 2 of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

South Africa welcomes the significant progress made towards the effective implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and believes the Committee should continue to encourage international cooperation to facilitate assistance to States that request it, as many States have expressed their willingness to provide assistance in this regard. We welcome the continued integration of the Committee's mandate into the work of international and regional organizations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, which has provided a wealth of expertise and experience for States to draw upon in their implementation efforts.

South Africa believes that preventing non-State actors from acquiring materials that could be used for the development of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems is a critical task for the international community, and one that can only be achieved if we work together and speak with one voice.