

Kingdom of Belgium

Speech by H.E. Ambassador Karen Van Vlierberge
Deputy Permanent Representative

at the UN Security Council

Briefing on the 1540 Committee

New York, 19 March 2019

Mr President,

Belgium would first like to thank His Excellency Mr Dian Triansyah Djani, Chairman of the 1540 Committee, for his comprehensive speech. We were pleased to note that substantial progress has been made in the global implementation of Resolution 1540 since its adoption almost 15 years ago. We welcome the work of the Chairman of the 1540 Committee in encouraging these 11 remaining States to release a national report and in offering the assistance of the 1540 Group of Experts for the drafting of these reports when requested by the Member States. As was stated by the Chairman of the 1540 Committee, the full implementation of the resolution is a long-term process and is constantly evolving.

Mr President,

The terrorist threat has not abated at all. Terrorist groups and individuals are constantly adapting to the new realities, and also seem to constantly reinvent themselves. The end of ISIL as a terrorist organisation with a territorial base does not mean the end of the threat that it represents. ISIL continues to indoctrinate individuals and groups around the world. In this context, the risk of terrorist groups acquiring weapons of mass destruction remains a major concern and we must not lower our guard.

If we are to deal with this threat, it is important to remind Member States of their responsibilities in this process. Member States should take all the measures necessary to introduce national legislation and national controls to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or the materials required to produce them.

With regard to guidance and assistance, the 1540 Committee plays a vital role in matching supply to demand and in providing support throughout the process. We would therefore like to stress the important role that international and regional organisations, civil society and the industrial sector can play in implementing the relevant resolutions. We welcome the increased involvement of the 1540 Chairmanship with organisations such as the WHO.

I would also like to draw attention to the important support of the international export control regimes in achieving the objectives of Resolution 1540. Belgium is a member of all these regimes and calls on non-Member States to either become a member of the regimes or unilaterally support their principles.

Mr President,

We need to remain vigilant, as terrorists seem to be constantly adapting to the new realities and taking advantage of scientific and technological progress, open borders and international trade. We must continue to pay particular attention to developments in all these areas and to the resilience of terrorist organisations and we must continue our efforts to ensure the global implementation of Resolution 1540. We offer the Committee our full support and cooperation in this crucial area.

Thank you, Mr President.