

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 1 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of France in response to the briefing by Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), which was transmitted to the Security Council by a letter dated 29 April 2020 ([S/2020/347](#)) (see annex).

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

(Signed) Nicolas **de Rivi re**



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I thank Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani for his briefing on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Security Council's consideration of this issue is taking place at an important time, since the year 2020 is devoted to a comprehensive review of the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) ahead of the renegotiation of the Committee's mandate in the spring of 2021.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is a pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture that underpins our entire collective security system. Through its adoption in 2004, the Security Council made the threat of the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly by non-State actors, one of its priorities. The Committee is the architect of the action taken by all States that contribute to the shared work of combating proliferation in a tangible way. I also wish to commend the Group of Experts that supports the Committee and whose analytical and awareness-raising work is essential. In more than 15 years, the Committee and its Group of Experts have made a very significant contribution to the improvement of counter-proliferation standards worldwide.

In 2020, the non-proliferation regime continues to be put to the test. That is why the Committee's *raison d'être* is more relevant than ever. France is particularly concerned about the continuing trend of the proliferation of missiles, missile components and associated technologies to non-State actors in the Middle East, in particular to the Houthis, as confirmed by the reports of the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140 (2014). This clearly poses a threat to regional security and beyond and must stop immediately. More globally, the illicit transfer of missile production capabilities enabling the delivery of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors is a phenomenon with serious and lasting repercussions that must be condemned and combated.

To stem proliferation, we must ramp up our efforts more than ever. The comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) provides us with an opportunity for useful reflection in order to improve the Committee's work to contribute to the collective effort. In that regard, I will focus on several courses of action:

- It is necessary to reflect on the scope of the resolution, in particular to see whether emerging technologies make it necessary to extend the work of the Committee to new threats.
- It would be very useful to identify the regions and themes on which to focus our efforts to strengthen the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- In the face of proliferation, cooperation and assistance are paramount. France, which performs the coordination functions of the working group on assistance, attaches particular importance to this issue. Assistance is most useful when it is carried out in a regional framework, based on the specific problems faced by States. We suggest that the Committee propose models for regional seminars, based on concrete exercises and exchange between States facing the same problems.
- We also need to reflect on how to make even greater use of the many skills of the Group of Experts, in order to better analyse non-proliferation threats to non-State actors and the adequacy of the international community's response.

It is of course up to each State, in its national capacity, to calibrate its specific efforts to implement resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). We can all do better to secure the sensitive goods and materials on our territories and strengthen export controls, especially considering the risk of the use of emerging technologies. I would also refer to the prevention and suppression of proliferation financing. France enjoys a robust and unique national legal framework in that regard. My country is also particularly involved in preventing the threat of terrorists acquiring sensitive nuclear and radioactive materials.

To be effective, we must also strengthen cooperation in all other forums and seek synergies with entities facing the same challenges outside the United Nations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Customs Organization and the multilateral export control regimes, including in order to avoid duplication of efforts. In the nuclear field, we also support the actions of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, for which we will host a workshop in Paris in 2021, and the Group of Seven (G7) Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, which we chaired in 2019. During our presidency of G7 we also coordinated diplomatic efforts to universalize international nuclear security conventions, which contribute to the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

Preserving and strengthening the non-proliferation regime are top priorities for collective security. France will remain fully committed in that regard by supporting and actively contributing to the work of the Committee, to the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution and to the renegotiation of the Committee's mandate.
