

32. Items relating to non-proliferation

A. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”. One meeting took the form of a briefing and two meetings were convened for the adoption of resolutions.¹¹⁵¹ In 2022, the Council unanimously adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter.¹¹⁵² More information on the meetings, including invitees, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.¹¹⁵³

On 14 March 2022, Council members held a meeting in connection with this item focused on the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). At the meeting, Council members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on its activities during the year of 2021.¹¹⁵⁴ In his briefing, the Chair underscored that resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) remained a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture aimed at preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. He said that States had made significant progress in the full implementation of the resolution regardless of the remaining gaps in its full and effective implementation. Outlining the activities of the Committee, he stated that 185 Member States had submitted their first reports containing information on measures taken to comply with their obligations under resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), and 136 Member States had informed the Committee of their national points of contact for the implementation of the resolution. In addition, noting that 35 Member States had submitted voluntary national implementation action plans to the Committee since 2007, he informed that the Committee had supported Botswana and Mongolia in their individual process of developing their own plans. The Chair explained that the Committee would continue to support States that wished to conduct peer reviews, through which Member States could identify effective national practices and share with the Committee and other partners. Emphasizing the

¹¹⁵¹ For more information on format of meetings, see part II.

¹¹⁵² Resolutions [2622 \(2022\)](#) and [2663 \(2022\)](#).

¹¹⁵³ See [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 25.

¹¹⁵⁴ See [S/PV.8993](#).

important role of the Committee in facilitating assistance to Member States, the Chair noted that the Committee had received four new assistance requests during 2021 and assured that the Committee would include new programmes and updated information regarding available assistance on its website. As one of the main priorities of the Committee, he informed the Council that the Committee continued to conduct the comprehensive review of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) as provided for in resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#), further to the extension of the Committee's mandate by resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#). He also explained that the review of the status of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) by Member States was a central theme of the comprehensive review.

Following the briefing, Council members reaffirmed that resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) remained an essential component of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture in preventing non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction and the central role played by the Committee and its Group of Experts in that regard. Noting the importance of approving the Committee's mandate, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the mandate should be based on the unifying principles of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and aimed at maintaining the fundamental principles of the Committee's work, without endowing it with intrusive or attributive powers. Some Council members expressed concern over the evolving risks of proliferation posed by non-state actors, including the risks posed by their attempted use of crude toxin weapons such as ricin,¹¹⁵⁵ and their exploitation of modern and new technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, synthetic biology and artificial intelligence.¹¹⁵⁶ Several Council members expressed support for enhanced cooperation and coordination of the Committee with international organizations and other United Nations committees, such as those dealing with terrorism in delivering its mandate.¹¹⁵⁷ Regarding the on-going comprehensive review of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), Council members underlined the importance of inclusiveness

¹¹⁵⁵ Ibid., United Kingdom.

¹¹⁵⁶ Ibid., China and United Arab Emirates.

¹¹⁵⁷ Ibid., France, India and Gabon.

of the process and encouraged broad consultations with, inter alia, Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the private sector.¹¹⁵⁸

On 25 February and 30 November, the Council convened two meetings at which it adopted resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#) and resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), respectively. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously, and both were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.

By resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) until 30 November 2022 with the continued assistance of its Group of Experts, as specified in paragraph 5 of resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#).¹¹⁵⁹ It also decided that the Committee pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), while continuing its work pursuant to its mandate, would continue to conduct and complete the comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and submit to the Council a report on the conclusion of the review.¹¹⁶⁰ Explaining the vote further to the adoption of resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#), the representative of the Russian Federation expressed concern that the Council had once again limited itself to a strictly technical rollover of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in the interest of ensuring that the comprehensive review of the resolution's implementation could be concluded swiftly. He underlined the importance of undertaking the review appropriately and allowing substantive contributions to be made by key participants. He also underscored that failing to do so, the added value of the review process would be largely wasted.¹¹⁶¹ The representative of China expressed the hope that the Committee would elaborate plans to advance its work in an orderly manner, including the comprehensive review of the status of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) adding that the legitimate concerns of all parties should be accorded equal attention and properly addressed in that process. Noting the comments made with respect to the process of a technical renewal of the mandate, the representative of Mexico clarified that consultations were conducted in good faith and

¹¹⁵⁸ Ibid., France, Ghana, Ireland, Norway, Brazil, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, United States and United Arab Emirates.

¹¹⁵⁹ Resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#), para. 1. For further details on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

¹¹⁶⁰ Resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#), para. 2. For details on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I. B.

¹¹⁶¹ See [S/PV.8977](#).

transparently and in response to all concerns expressed adding that the great majority of members expressed their preference for a technical renewal as the most viable way of undertaking the broad review mandated by resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#). Following Mexico, the representative of the United States stated that the technical extension would allow the Committee and the Group of Experts to continue their important work. He also said that during the upcoming comprehensive review and mandate renewal, his delegation would prioritize the full implementation of States' obligations under resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) by striving to improve the functionality and credibility of the Committee, empowering its Group of Experts and enhancing its support to assistance- and outreach-related activities. Expressing a strong support for the adoption of resolution [2622 \(2022\)](#), the representative of the United Kingdom applauded Mexico's efforts as Chair to secure an extension of the mandate.

By resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), the Council endorsed the 2022 comprehensive review of the status of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and took note of its results as contained in its final report.¹¹⁶² By the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of the Committee for a period of 10 years until 30 November 2032,¹¹⁶³ and reiterated the mandate of the Committee in promoting the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), emphasizing in particular those aspects relating to outreach and technical assistance to Member States.¹¹⁶⁴ Following the adoption, 11 Council members delivered statements. Some Council members emphasized the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and welcomed its inclusion in the resolution, encouraging the Committee to give due consideration to the matter in all its activities.¹¹⁶⁵ Council members also welcomed the strengthening of the Committee's cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations and other Committees.¹¹⁶⁶ Certain Council members underlined the central role of the Group of Experts in monitoring and supporting the

¹¹⁶² Resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), twenty-second preambular paragraph. See also [S/2022/899](#).

¹¹⁶³ Resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), para. 2.

¹¹⁶⁴ For details on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I. B.

¹¹⁶⁵ [S/PV. 9205](#), Ireland, Albania, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Mexico and Ghana. See also Resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph.

¹¹⁶⁶ [S/PV. 9205](#), Ireland, Albania, India and Ghana. See also Resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and twenty-first preambular paragraphs and paras. 21, 23, 25 and 26.

work of the Committee,¹¹⁶⁷ and noted the call for the Committee to review its internal guidelines on matters regarding its group of experts.¹¹⁶⁸ The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States expressed disappointment that the new mandate did not go further in strengthening the Committee’s support to Member States in implementing the resolution, including on the issue of proliferation financing,¹¹⁶⁹ and did not give the Committee and its Group of Experts the tools that they would need to work efficiently and effectively.¹¹⁷⁰ The representative of China pointed out that the unfair and unreasonable aspects of the international non-proliferation regime remained striking, while the right of the majority of developing countries to the peaceful use of science and technology continued to be subject to many restrictions.

In 2022, the Council also heard an additional briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) under a separate item of the agenda, entitled “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”.¹¹⁷¹

Meetings: Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8977 25 February 2022	Draft resolution submitted by Mexico (S/2022/147)			Five Council members (China, Mexico, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States)		Resolution 2622 (2022) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8993 14 March 2022					All Council members ^a	
S/PV. 9205 30 November 2022		Draft resolution submitted by Mexico (S/2022/881)			11 Council members ^b	Resolution 2663 (2022) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a The representative of Mexico spoke in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

^b Albania, China, Ghana, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

¹¹⁶⁷ [S/PV. 9205](#), Ireland, United Kingdom, Norway and United States.

¹¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, Norway and United States (p. 6). See also resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#), para. 5.

¹¹⁶⁹ [S/PV. 9205](#), United Kingdom.

¹¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, United States.

¹¹⁷¹ See [S/PV.9221](#). For more details, see part I, sect. 31.