

31. Items relating to non-proliferation

A. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”, which took the form of a briefing.¹⁰³⁸ More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers is given in table 1 below. Council members also held two open videoconferences in connection with this item. One of the videoconferences was devoted to the announcement of the adoption of a resolution. More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.¹⁰³⁹ In 2021, the Council also unanimously adopted resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter.

On 30 March 2021, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with this item focused on the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on its activities during the year 2020.¹⁰⁴⁰ 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 from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. He highlighted that 184 Member States had to date submitted initial reports to the Committee on measures that they had taken, planned to take or to comply with their obligations under the resolution, while 127 Member States had informed the Committee of their national points of contact in support of the resolution’s implementation. The Chair further informed Council members that, in accordance with resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#), the Committee was conducting a comprehensive review of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) prior to the renewal of its mandate in April 2021, which had been delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the successful completion of the review was the highest priority of the Committee. A central theme of the comprehensive review was the status of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and he also said that the Committee would address its role in facilitating assistance

¹⁰³⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II sect. II.

¹⁰³⁹ See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 25.

¹⁰⁴⁰ See [S/2021/325](#).

matchmaking, outreach activities and collaboration with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other United Nations bodies.

Following the briefing, many Council members acknowledged the continued threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including to terrorists and other non-State actors.¹⁰⁴¹ Council members emphasized that resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) was a vital element of the global non-proliferation efforts,¹⁰⁴² and commended the progress made in its implementation.¹⁰⁴³ Several Council members also highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.¹⁰⁴⁴ On the comprehensive review of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), some Council members noted that it was an opportunity to reflect on the mandates of the Committee and the Group of Experts.¹⁰⁴⁵ The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the expectation that the review would be productive and enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) as well as the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts, adding that the resolution remained one of the few islands of stability and non-confrontation in multilateral diplomacy.

On 27 September 2021, the Council held a meeting in connection with this item under the sub-item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of its opening for signature.¹⁰⁴⁶ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and a Member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban

¹⁰⁴¹ China, Estonia, France, India, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

¹⁰⁴² China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United Kingdom.

¹⁰⁴³ Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

¹⁰⁴⁴ China, France, India, Mexico, Niger, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam.

¹⁰⁴⁵ Estonia, India and Mexico. For further details on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Since the inception of the item on 22 April 2004, this was the first meeting held under the sub-item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”. Previously, the Council held discussions on the CTBT under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, under the sub-item entitled “Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament”. For further information regarding previous discussions, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2008-2009*, part I, sect. 39.B, and *Supplement 2016-2017*, part I, sect. 40.

Treaty Organization Youth Group.¹⁰⁴⁷ In her briefing, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs underlined that because of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the norm against nuclear testing was one of the most hard-won gains of the post-Cold War era. She also noted that the CTBT was recognized as an essential element of nuclear disarmament and a building block for a world free of nuclear weapons — the United Nations highest disarmament priority. She noted that the CTBT had achieved near universal adherence and that the International Monitoring System (IMS), which provided round-the-clock, real-time monitoring of any explosive nuclear activities on Earth, was more than 90 per cent complete. The High-Representative underscored that the cumulative result of these achievements was that no nuclear test conducted would ever evade the watchful eyes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which buttressed the strong global norm against any nuclear testing. She cautioned that despite these remarkable achievements, many challenges still laid ahead, such as the worrisome trend observed in recent years towards the modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals. The High-Representative said that the best way to uphold the norm against testing was to reaffirm and enhance support for the CTBT, through reinforcing its existing strengths and striving to bring about its entry into force on several fronts, namely, by empowering the youth of the world; by realizing its full potential in tandem with other processes related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; and by providing support for the IMS and further strengthening of the CTBTO's technical capabilities to detect activities related to nuclear testing.

In his intervention, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO stated that the significance of the CTBT, and its twenty-fifth anniversary, had to be understood within the broader context of the collective goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. And while there could have been differing views on the best path to achieve the goal, a verifiable and enforceable ban on nuclear testing had to be a core component of the legal and technical architecture of a nuclear-weapon-free world. He further noted that there was near universal adherence to the Treaty's prohibition on nuclear explosions and that there had been much

¹⁰⁴⁷ See [S/PV.8865](#).

progress towards its universalization while adding that he looked forward to coordinating efforts to welcome even more States into the CTBT community.

In her remarks, the Member of the CTBTO Youth Group highlighted that the CTBTO had over the past 25 years, through the state-of-the-art IMS, proven its capacity to act as a comprehensive global monitoring system, which ensured that no nuclear test explosion went unnoticed by the international community. She then offered various ways in which the CTBT could be advanced, including through promoting and encouraging the usage of the data from the IMS, especially in the scientific community; education to provide the necessary awareness of disarmament, science and diplomacy and including the younger generation in the sphere of nuclear disarmament through dialogue, education platforms and capacity-building events.

Following the briefings, the Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland opened the discussion recognising that the meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the CTBT over its 25 years and to renew collective efforts to pursue the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty. He noted that the 185 signatories and 170 ratifying States highlighted the strong global support for the Treaty. He also endorsed the recent reiteration by President Biden and President Putin that nuclear war could not be won and must never be fought, which was an important recognition of the futility of nuclear weapons and the devastation that a nuclear war would bring. Further to the Minister of State, most speakers underscored the importance of the CTBT as part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and emphasized the importance of its entry into force. While some speakers welcomed the recent ratifications by Cuba and Comoros,¹⁰⁴⁸ others called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT,¹⁰⁴⁹ and to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.¹⁰⁵⁰

¹⁰⁴⁸ Russia Federation, United Kingdom, Italy and South Africa.

¹⁰⁴⁹ United Kingdom.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Ireland, Estonia, France, United Kingdom, Norway and Italy.

In 2021, the Council also heard a 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”.¹⁰⁵¹

In 2021, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#) in connection with this item. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) until 28 February 2022 with the continued assistance of its Group of Experts, as specified in paragraph 5 of resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#).¹⁰⁵² It also decided that the Committee that was established 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.¹⁰⁵³ In its explanation of vote, the delegation of the Russian Federation expressed regret that not all the concerns it had expressed during the work on the draft resolution had been taken into account, particularly the Council’s endorsement of the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) carried out in the context of the comprehensive review. The delegation also expressed the hope that the compromise reached would finally allow the Committee to focus on fulfilling its main task, namely, to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) within the established time frame and to develop, based on its results, a new long-term mandate for this subsidiary body of the Council.¹⁰⁵⁴

Table 1
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.8865 27 September 2021	Comprehensive Nuclear- Test-Ban Treaty		Italy, South Africa	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear- Test-Ban Treaty	12 Council members ^a , all invitees ^b	

¹⁰⁵¹ See [S/PV.8915](#). For more details, see part I, sect. 29.

¹⁰⁵² Resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. For further details on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

¹⁰⁵³ Resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#), para. 2.

¹⁰⁵⁴ See [S/2021/400](#).

<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>
					Organization (CTBTO), Member of the CTBTO Youth Group.	

^a China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam. Ireland was represented by its Minister of State for European Affairs. Estonia was represented by its Deputy Foreign Minister. India was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

^b The Member of the CTBTO Youth Group participated in the meeting via videoconference.

Table 2
Videoconferences: Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
30 March 2021	S/2021/325	Letter dated 1 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
22 April 2021	S/2021/400	Letter dated 22 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2572(2021) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2021/393 (Record of written procedure)