



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

By

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

1540 Chair's Briefing

United Nations Security Council

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks Ambassador Djani for his comprehensive written briefing and we commend him for his work as Chair of the 1540 Committee.

Resolution 1540 is a pillar in the fight against the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In our current political landscape, it is important that we continue to work towards the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Non-state actors, especially, terrorists are a particular challenge in this regard. There will be catastrophic consequences if nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons were to fall into the wrong hands. The full enforcement of resolution 1540 is the best way to prevent this grim possibility.

We welcome the positive developments highlighted in the Chair's briefing. We are encouraged by the progress that many states have made in the full implementation of the resolution. The Committee having received 184 first reports in 2019 is indeed commendable. We appreciate and support the continued engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations. It is imperative that we continue to facilitate assistance to Member States. This requires a global effort and we must demonstrate solidarity in this process.

We emphasize the importance of full participation in the Comprehensive Review. While the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated various cancellations and postponements of actions essential to the Review, we must remain committed to the process and do the best that we can to bridge the gap.

We are maneuvering through challenging times, but that should in no way lessen our commitment to the ultimate goal of non-proliferation. Successful implementation of Resolution 1540 demands dedication and cooperation from member states at national, regional and international levels. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the threat of their use is a threat to all humanity and therefore deserves our continued attention. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has always been committed to doing its part to ensure that we fully eradicate weapons of mass destruction and we will continue to support the work of the Committee.