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Statement

By

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Counsellor**

1540 (Non-Proliferation) Committee Briefing

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks Ambassador Juan Ramón for his informative briefing, and we express our support to Mexico for their continued efforts as Chair of the 1540 Committee. Resolution 1540 (2004) remains a vital element in the global architecture to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials to non-state actors. The threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to and through non-state actors is constantly evolving. Therefore, it is imperative that perpetrators are held accountable as the use of these weapons remains unacceptable.

The significant progress that States have made since the adoption of resolution 1540 is quite encouraging. However, as mentioned by the Chair, its full and effective implementation is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at all regional and international levels. In this regard, we are particularly pleased by the precautionary measures taken by the Committee during 2020 to maintain the coordination between the Committee and international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

The Committee must be commended for finalizing the review of 193 matrices and for publishing 190 updated Matrices on its website. We also applaud the 184 Member States who submitted implementation reports on measures they have taken or plan to undertake in compliance with their obligations under resolution 1540, as encouraged by Paragraph 5 of resolution 2325 (2016).

We also take this opportunity to encourage the Committee to continue its efforts in facilitating technical assistance to Member States to review and strengthen their mechanisms for safeguarding against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as to strengthen dialogue and cooperation.

To conclude, we reaffirm our commitment to contributing to the full implementation of resolution 1540, including the implementation of our obligations to enhance the security of nuclear materials

and their means of delivery. We reiterate our support for the activities of the Committee and the Group of Experts, and we express our full support for the extension of the 1540 mandate.

Thank you.