

**Briefing by Ambassador Baso Sangqu on the work of the Committee
established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
10 May 2012**

Introduction

I am very pleased, as Chairman of the 1540 Committee, to give an overview of the main developments in the work of the Committee since the last joint meeting on 14 November 2011, in addition to the information just delivered by Ambassador Wittig in the joint statement.

I will update the Council on the first annual review of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) conducted by the Committee and on the recent activities. Before I do so, I want to express my gratitude to Lebanon, for having served as an acting Chair of the Committee in a key period at the end of 2011.

2011 Annual review of implementation

In accordance with operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee has conducted, with the assistance of its experts, its first annual review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The review presents progress made by States and other activities relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011. The review is structured in two parts: the first part provides a factual summary of the considered year, based on the structure of resolution 1977 (2011) in the areas of implementation, assistance, co-operation with

international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and transparency and outreach; the second part is analytical, with a forward-looking perspective, identifying nine steps that the Committee may consider, taking into account recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Security Council on 12 September 2011 (in S/2011/579). The annual review was transmitted to the Security Council on 1 February 2012 (in S/2012/79) and is available on the website of the 1540 Committee.

Recent activities of the 1540 Committee

Since the last joint meeting, the 1540 Committee has conducted activities focused on implementation, assistance, co-operation with international organisations, and on outreach and transparency, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011) and with the Tenth Programme of Work of the Committee for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012.

Implementation

Monitoring and facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States is a key function of the Committee, bearing in mind that the full implementation of the resolution by States is a long-term task. As no initial report on the implementation of the resolution has been received since the last joint meeting, the number of States that have not submitted a report yet remains of twenty-five. However, the Committee has received additional information from several States. Belarus informed the Committee of its

intention to prepare a national framework document on the implementation of the resolution. Serbia informed of the adoption of national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for the period of 2012-2016. Montenegro provided the Committee with point of contact information.

In addition, the experts supporting the Committee have conducted country-specific dialogues with several States, with a view to facilitate the implementation of the resolution. Experts conducted a site visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as a part of the US country visit. This was done at the invitation of the United States Government, who wished to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Let me note, also, that a visit was planned to the Republic of Congo, at its invitation, to discuss several aspects of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the submission of an initial report. The visit was eventually postponed, due to the accidental fire in the central arms and ammunition depot in Brazzaville. I assure the Republic of Congo of our sympathy for their situation and of our willingness to reschedule the visit at a more convenient time.

Assistance

The 1540 Committee continues to actively play its clearinghouse role to facilitate match-making between requests and offers of assistance, in relation with the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, the Committee continues to implement its revised guidelines on processing assistance requests. Since the last joint meeting, the Committee has received

additional information regarding assistance from the Republic Serbia, and point of contact information for assistance from Madagascar. As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I have sent letters to States and regional organizations that have requested assistance to inform them of the replies received and to enquire whether their requests were met. In anticipation of the G-8 Global Partnership Working Group meeting in Washington DC, United States, on 24-25 January 2012, the Committee approved an updated consolidated list of assistance requests prepared by its experts, and shared it with the presidency of the G-8 for distribution to the G-8 partners, calling for a substantive and pro-active dialogue on this issue. Since the last joint meeting, the 1540 Committee and its experts have participated in three meetings of the Global Partnership Working Group, where assistance and capacity-building matters have been discussed.

Co-operation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations

The Committee continued co-operation with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, participating in outreach events organized or co-organized, for instance, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, the League of Arab States, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the World Customs Organization, and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States. The Committee received a briefing by the Chair of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile

Proliferation who noted that, although the Code had not been negotiated within the framework of the United Nations, it had a valuable role to play in furthering the aims of resolution 1540. The Committee received points of contact information from the African Union and from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The 1540 Committee has also received a communication from the OSCE submitting the point of contact information of 44 of its participating States, in accordance with the OSCE Decision 19/11 entitled “Points of Contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)” adopted on 14 December 2011.

The Committee may consider a strategy on engaging international, regional and sub-regional organizations and other entities, as appropriate, in particular with respect to information-sharing, the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and co-operation in assisting Member States.

Outreach and transparency

Since the last joint meeting, the Committee and its experts have participated in 31 outreach events, listed on the website of the Committee. This includes participation in the first International Conference of International, Regional and Sub-regional Industry Associations on Resolution 1540 (2004) held in Wiesbaden, Germany, on 23-25 April 2012, which was attended by Committee members from both Germany and Pakistan. The Committee, with the assistance of its experts, has also participated in various country-specific

activities including with Albania, Belarus, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Myanmar and Turkmenistan.

Transparency is a key principle guiding the work of the Committee. With the support of the United Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee has operated a major redesign of its website, which has been launched and can now be accessed in its new configuration.

Before I conclude, let me highlight two matters on which, I hope, it will be possible for the Committee to make progress.

The first matter is the establishment of a group of experts in support of the Committee, in accordance with operative paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee has approved and transmitted to the Council recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and geographical representation of the Committee and the Group of experts. A call for nominations was subsequently launched, and Committee members are now actively consulting on the finalisation of this process of establishment.

The second matter that the Committee has before it is the possibility of strengthening the existing administrative and logistics support to the Committee from the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), as requested by the Council in operative paragraph 22 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), including through strengthening of ODA's regional capacity to support the

implementation of the resolution at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Completion of these two tasks will be a major focus of the work of the Committee in the upcoming period.

I thank you.