

## **“ Workshop on National Nonproliferation Controls ”**

Millenium Plaza Hotel, New York, 27 March 2007

Statement by Ambassador Peter Burian

Chairman of the UN SC 1540 Committee

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the organizers, to the government of Norway and to the co-organizers the governments of Germany and Chile, for hosting this Workshop focused on the issues that are indeed relevant to the implementation of the resolution 1540.

The purpose and the first challenge of today’s workshop is how to best encourage or assist countries to provide the 1540 Committee with a better picture of the status of their national implementation of resolution 1540 and to discuss the facilitation of assistance from other States or international institutions. As the Committee noted in its April 2006 report to the Security Council, significant gaps exist between obligations derived from the resolution and the measures that most States have taken to implement these obligations.

As it stands in the concept paper, of the 135 UN member States that have submitted their national reports, over 40 States have indicated they would require assistance in their efforts to implement Resolution 1540. However, relatively few of them provided details on the nature of assistance required or have covered all the areas where assistance might be necessary.

After the extension of the mandate in April 2006, the work of the Committee is focused more on issues promoting a full implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 including through programmes of outreach and assistance. Although the Committee continues to consider national reports that were submitted after the extension of its mandate, the outreach activities and cooperation with international organizations now makes considerably more of its workload.

Outreach activities conducted by the UNSC 1540 Committee during 2005-2006 clearly demonstrated that a major assistance effort was

needed in order to ensure full implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004). However, they also showed that the international community still lacks a coherent strategy on assistance to this end. Indeed, practically all assistance provided in the area of non-proliferation by international organizations and individual governments was initiated well before the adoption of Resolution 1540 and thus does not meet the specific requests made by over 40 States in the context of that resolution. Given the nature of the threat identified by Resolution 1540, the international community must accord high priority to this area.

In cooperation with the Department of Disarmament Affairs the Committee organized seminars in three regions (*Asia, Africa, Latin America*) with the lowest rates of reporting and where the need of assistance is the most relevant. The Committee representatives participated in various regional events, such as the seminars organised by the OSCE, OAS, ASEAN or thematic events, such as the 8<sup>th</sup> annual export control seminar in Bucharest or the NATO seminar in Vilnius, that covered various aspects of the requirements set out in the resolutions 1540 and 1673. Committee representatives also participated in meetings organised by NGO's, such as those organized by the Monterey Institute for International Studies, the Stimson Centre, and Stanford University. In addition the Committee is developing contacts with international organizations and arrangements, including the IAEA, OPCW, WCO, NSG, and MTCR, with access to expertise that could be appropriately utilized for better implementation of resolution 1540.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the UN Security Council met to discuss the issue that is very close to today's workshop topic - non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the possibilities of cooperation with international organizations. Two organizations – the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and a number of countries who actively participated in the debate are with us today.

Besides acknowledging with great appreciation the work of organizations with expertise in non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, one of the most

important results achieved at the Open Debate, was the affirmation of the Security Council's determination to promote **increased multilateral cooperation** as an important way to boost worldwide implementation of resolution 1540. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that the mandate of the 1540 Committee ends in April 2008. At that time the Committee with the assistance of its experts will have to submit a report to the Security Council on *compliance* by States. The most anticipated findings of that report would be information about the progress of implementation of resolution achieved since the last report that was approved by the Committee in April 2006.

The theme that was proposed for this first session – *Implementation challenges including demands for assistance* – is timely and relevant. At the same time the theme is rather complex to be addressed and discussed comprehensively in a one-day event. Therefore, I would expect that the participants will try to discuss primarily the issues that would address the issue of assistance that can be considered as a tool for the implementation of resolution 1540.

Creation of a national system for controlling the sensitive goods requires all states to implement legislation in fields of licensing, enforcement, border control, safety, accounting, protection. In many countries it also requires the creation of relevant institutions, which requires many financial and human resources. A full implementation of all parts of the resolution is therefore not a simple task. In particular in countries that have different national priorities or lacking manpower and expertise, implementation will prove challenging. Nevertheless, I think that everybody is aware of the fact that implementation is not only a burden for countries but it also brings many benefits in enhanced security and a better economic environment.

It is also clear that this task is too complex to be fulfilled by a single UN Security Council subsidiary body. Hence, in my view and in view of many other delegations, the co-operation among, and even coordination of some activities of various international, regional and sub regional bodies should be used more effectively and put into practice to these ends.

In the list of participants in this conference I can see a number of countries with mature export control systems or programmes to account for and secure WMD-related materials and many other countries that are currently developing these systems. International organizations and multilateral regimes, including those who are participating in this workshop conference, also have a base of knowledge and experience that could be provided to States requesting assistance. Sharing their experience in their bilateral programmes of assistance with all participants would be a concrete and real input to the discussion.

Among the activities that fall under its mandate, the Committee can serve as a clearing house for information concerning technical assistance relevant to implementation of resolution 1540, helping to give states that are seeking such assistance information about states or other providers that are offering it. The Committee's aim is to improve cooperation and, where appropriate, even coordination among international, regional, and sub-regional organizations and relevant multilateral export control arrangements.

In this respect the above-mentioned strategy could include thoughts generated at various seminars, workshops and conferences as:

- Utilizing the activities of the programmes of relevant inter-governmental organizations (such as the IAEA, OPCW, WCO etc.) dedicated specifically to the assistance that would reflect the implementation of Resolution 1540;
- Involving major regional and sub-regional organizations in the assistance efforts and thus providing a better assessment of priorities in assistance;
- Discussing, in the framework of the G-8, a possible programme similar to the Global Partnership and dedicated to assistance in implementing Resolution 1540 or expanding the Global Partnership Programme for that purpose;
- Creating a donor consultation mechanism under the aegis of UNSC 1540 Committee;

- Furthering the current database on points of contact for assistance, and creating a network of assistance managers;
- Producing a working schedule of assistance activities that would include information on the purpose, dates, location, budgets, nature, name, and possible participants to which all the above-mentioned managers could have access and keep up-to-date;
- Involving more actively the NGO community in the assessment of assistance needs as well as the provision of such assistance.

Since I am to be followed by a number of distinguished speakers who can make important contributions that address these themes and the issue of demands for assistance, I would like to conclude by using the words as they were stressed by one delegation and backed by others in the Open Debate on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007, “... *we need to work at all levels – nationally, sub-regionally, and internationally. We need a coalition of all those who are able to help ...*” Multilateral cooperation could work to advance the national security interests of all states and the strengthening of international peace and security.

Again, I would like to thank all the organizers for providing the opportunity to address the issue of non-proliferation of sensitive goods and technologies, a matter that is in all of our interests. I expect the conference will have a positive outcome and I thank the participants for your attention.

Thank you very much.