

**Asia Regional Workshop on the Full Implementation of Resolution 1540  
(2004)  
Opening Address  
by  
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27 October 2014**

To begin with I would like to express my thanks to the two preceding speakers who represent the organisations that made the regional seminar possible: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea as the host for this event, and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for their support in developing the agenda and inviting the participants from Asia and other parts of the world to participate in today's workshop. Ambassador Shin and the UN High Representative for Disarmament, Ms Kane, my thanks go to you and to your staff for the hard work and excellent preparations.

Wise words have already been spoken on the importance and relevance to international security of resolution 1540 (2004). Therefore I will be brief so that you can all get down to work. This event is taking place at a critical time in the history of resolution 1540. Not only because it is in the tenth anniversary year of the unanimous adoption of the resolution by the Security Council -- but also because the 1540 Committee is about to embark on a comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution, as called for in resolution 1977 (2011).

This event provides an important opportunity to seek views from States of the Asian region and key international organisations. The review cannot be truly comprehensive unless the Committee knows of the concerns of, and

challenges faced by, Member States who have to implement the wide-ranging obligations arising from resolution 1540.

The implementation of resolution 1540 bears particular significance in this region, where the risk of WMD proliferation remains high. As President Park Geun-hye stressed in her opening remarks at The Hague Nuclear Security Summit, “a chain can only be as strong as its weakest link.” A robust, seamless global WMD non-proliferation regime calls for effective implementation of resolution 1540 by all States. To achieve this goal, strong and effective cooperation among Member States is essential, particularly at the regional level. Regional partners should work together to share lessons learnt and effective practices, and to provide assistance where it is most needed.

As you will have noted from the concept paper and the program, this conference will provide an excellent opportunity:

- First to share effective practices on implementation:
- Second, to hear ideas on how we can enhance the assistance system so that it can be more responsive in the important task of capacity building for those countries that need it; and,
- Third, to help chart a strategy through to 2021 – the end of the current mandate of the 1540 Committee – that I hope will lead to full implementation of the resolution.

I, and my fellow Committee members as well as group of experts, are here to listen and learn. Therefore it is vital that those that are representatives of

Member States take an active part in the discussions. I am grateful to the organisers for the way they have structured tomorrow's agenda to allow for what should be a truly interactive discussion.

The 1540 Committee was much encouraged by the Security Council's Open Debate on the resolution on 7 May this year during which more than 60 States from all regions of the world made statements of support. This shows that the resolution remains widely supported. However, we should not underestimate the task of maintaining the momentum of implementation – particularly in the context of rapidly evolving political, economic, scientific and technological landscape. Full implementation of resolution 1540 will make the world a safer place – we need your help in this vital task. I look forward to fruitful outcome and active participation. Thank you for your attention