

**Dialogue Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation,
the Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe**

Address by Ambassador Oh Joon

**Chair of the Committee Established Pursuant to UN
Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

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At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Forum for Security Cooperation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for inviting me today. The UN Security Council's 1540 Committee recognizes the contribution that the OSCE makes to the cause of non-proliferation and, in particular, to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540. The support of regional organisations is important to the effective implementation of the resolution worldwide.

Resolution 1540 is a preventive resolution. The potentially devastating effect of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, and possibly into the hands of terrorists, could have global catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. You are already aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak with high explosive devices. While much of the activity surrounding UN resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concern procedures, compliance mechanisms and the like, we

should not lose sight of what we are in fact trying to prevent. Just a glance at April's issue of INTERPOL's monthly digest of incidents shows that there are real risks on a daily basis. For example, it included a report of a case in Central Asia of a smuggling ring being convicted of stealing and attempting to sell dangerous radiological material, Caesium (Cs-137); on the biological side, a man in North America was charged with obtaining materials and attempting to manufacture the highly dangerous toxin, ricin, with intent to kill; in Western Europe, during an audit, 2,800 samples of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus were discovered to be missing - it is still unknown how the loss came about. What is more striking, however, is that April was not an unusual month as far as these types of incidents are concerned. These serve to illustrate the importance of effective measures and controls on WMD and related materials.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the unanimous adoption of resolution 1540. In his special message on April 28, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed "to all States and other key actors to intensify their efforts to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as the safety and security of everyone is at stake." Among the "other key actors" are regional organisations such as yours.

I am pleased to say that during the Open Debate on resolution 1540 by the Security Council on 7 May, over which the ROK was honoured to preside, there were strong expressions of support by more than sixty countries of their commitment to the effective implementation of the resolution. However, there was a clear recognition that there is more work to be done. Indeed effective implementation is still very much a work in progress. This is made clear in the unanimously adopted Presidential Statement that, among other things, says: “The Security Council calls upon all States to step up their efforts to implement resolution 1540, focusing on areas where measures taken may be strengthened, with a view to achieving full implementation of the resolution by 2021”. Also, the statement emphasised “the need for the Committee to coordinate its non-proliferation work with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations”. Clearly, it is a global endeavour that requires sustained cooperation from all stakeholders since the global effectiveness of resolution 1540 is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain.

Even with this well-informed audience I feel it is important that I state the essence of the obligations so that you have in your minds the scope of the binding obligations. States are required to:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities are embraced in implementing these obligations including export controls, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection, border controls etc. Of course, while it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems. Globalization, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring new risks. These need to be countered by adaptation of measures in place or by the introduction of new measures. Effective implementation requires our constant attention.

It is worthy of note that to date [172] countries have reported on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that nearly 90% of UN Member States have reported – a remarkable record.

This is a practical indication of commitment to the objectives of the resolution and enables the 1540 Committee to engage in dialogue with States. While there are still [21] countries to submit a report, I am glad that the reporting record among OSCE countries is 100%. I should point out that regular additional reporting and updating is important so that the status of implementation can be reflected and assessed accurately.

I am also pleased to note that nearly all OSCE Member States have formally designated Points of Contact for 1540 implementation. An innovative meeting that brought together OSCE PoCs in Vienna this April was an important contribution to the development of 1540 PoCs into a “living network”, which is one of the goals in the Committee’s Programme of Work. This attests to the commitment of OSCE States and to the excellent work by the staff of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

We are now moving from a decade of awareness-raising to a new decade of effective and sustained implementation. The CPC has undertaken excellent work in this regard in assisting [at least nine] OSCE States, at their request, in developing their voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs). Just this week the CPC, along with members of the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee, are advising Armenia and

Uzbekistan in the finalisation of their NAPs. I wish to acknowledge, with appreciation, that resulting from such assistance, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recently submitted its NAP to the Committee. The Committee stands ready to offer further assistance in the implementation stage as well. I must stress that direct interactions with States whether in Vienna or in States by invitation, are without question the most practical and effective way of improving the implementation of 1540 obligations.

On the matter of NAPs the Committee is keen to receive as many NAPs as possible, whether or not assistance is needed, such as those received recently from Croatia and the United Kingdom.

The OSCE region has also been the scene of innovation in promoting the implementation of resolution 1540. The peer review event conducted by Croatia and Poland last year, by which the two States learned from each other to help improve their implementation measures, was rewarding for both parties. Subject to their local circumstances other States may learn from this experience. I am pleased to note that the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA), in partnership with the Regional Arms Control Verification, Implementation and Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), will be holding an event next

week in Croatia to bring in representatives from States and organisations from different regions of the world to share experiences on peer reviews and similar activities.

The peer reviews are an important element among a wide range of other activities undertaken over the past year by OSCE Member States, for example, in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Germany has continued to host the “Wiesbaden Process” that reaches out to global industries to enlist their cooperation in supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. Vienna has also been the host for outreach events to civil society in engaging the NGO community. All this adds up to solid support for enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540 in the OSCE region and beyond.

The practical results owe a great deal to the financial support rendered by Member States to the UN Trust Fund in support of the implementation of 1540. Taking this opportunity, I would like to particularly thank Andorra, Kazakhstan, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union for their generous support. I am also pleased to report that the Republic of Korea recently contributed 1 million USD to this fund in support of 1540 implementation. I am also encouraged by the efforts of the OSCE members to strengthen regional 1540 implementation through individual grants and also through

mainstreaming the 1540 profile as one of the OSCE's regular activities.

Now allow me to say a few words about assistance. The Security Council has recently approved the Committee's Thirteenth Programme of Work. One of the priority areas the Committee will focus on is improving the system of assistance that is designed to facilitate the capacity building of States that request help in improving their implementation of the 1540 obligations. In particular, the Committee seeks to work with regional organisations to help States articulate their assistance needs. By doing so, an assisting State or organisation can respond effectively -- whether from within the region or without. Also the Committee would welcome ideas on how we might make the assistance mechanism more efficient and responsive.

The 1540 Committee seeks to develop a compilation of effective practices that States can draw on voluntarily under their individual circumstances. I believe regional organisations such as the OSCE have an important role in this regard, particularly since the OSCE has already developed a best practice guide on implementing the resolution's export control requirements. I very much hope that the OSCE will further foster the sharing of effective practices among its Member States and with the 1540 Committee.

Once again, I would like to stress that the role of the organisation has evolved over the years in a very positive way. The main components of its role that, in my view, should be maintained and, where appropriate, strengthened could be summarised as follows:

- Support of resolution 1540 by OSCE participating States and its partners for cooperation at the national level at their request;
- Promotion of sharing of experience and effective practices at the regional level;
- Maintaining and developing further the network of 1540 PoCs in the region.

I very much hope that the resources will be forthcoming to enable the OSCE and its Secretariat to maintain the momentum of its valuable support for the implementation of resolution 1540. This would enable the OSCE region to continue to progress towards full and effective implementation of the resolution and sustain it over the next decade beyond its tenth anniversary. In this way the OSCE will continue to make a vital contribution to international security within its region and beyond.

I very much look forward to discussing the points I have raised with you in order to advance the 1540 Committee's collaboration with you to our mutual benefit.

Thank you for your undivided attention.

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