

“Advancing international cooperation and assistance in national implementation  
of UNSCR 1540/1977”

*UNSCR 1540/1977 implementation support*

*66 UNGA First Committee side-event organised by Poland, 19 October 2011*

**Remarks by**

**Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of South Africa and  
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on  
the current status of the UNSCR 1540/1977 implementation**

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome the opportunity to speak at this event focusing on the status of implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011). As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I would like to highlight the contributions of our Committee to this objective.

The Committee was established in 2004 in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1540, which aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, by preventing non-State actors from acquiring, developing, trafficking or using these weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. In addition, the resolution presented illicit trafficking of materials related to such weapons as a new dimension of proliferation, and thus required additional domestic controls and measures to prevent such diversion. The international community has realized that the nexus between WMD proliferation and terrorism has become one of the most dangerous realities of our time.

Since 2004, many States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and civil society have intensified their efforts to fight WMD proliferation and terrorism. Virtually all UN Member States, for example, have endorsed full implementation of the resolution in several relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and these organizations have begun to incorporate practical steps to implement the resolution in their work programmes. As part of this process, the 1540 Committee has actively contributed to strengthening these global and regional non-proliferation and counter-terrorism regimes. It also has contributed to better prepare States to prevent proliferation of WMD by and to non-State actors and continues to work closely with States to assist them to take additional measures to implement all their obligations under the resolution.

Beyond making political commitments to implement the resolution, more States have taken more concrete measures to implement it. For example, at least 140 States have adopted legislative measures to prohibit nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons proliferation, compared to just 65 in 2006. Since its report to the United Nations Security Council in July 2008, the Committee has documented a notable increase in the number of 1540-related measures taken by States, as well as in the number of States taking 1540-related measures, toward implementing nearly every obligation of the resolution.

While the status of implementation of the resolution continues to improve since 2004, the Committee recognizes that still much work awaits States and that the gravity of the threat remains considerable. The full implementation of the resolution would be a great contribution to global non-proliferation goals, but it requires long term efforts by States to meet all the requirements and recommendations of the resolution. To that end the Security Council on 20 April 2011 unanimously adopted resolution 1977. The new resolution extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years, which will enhance the 1540 Committee's efforts to support States in their implementation of the

resolution by enabling the Committee to have a long term perspective and plan its activities accordingly, without losing sight of the urgency of the threat.. Toward implementing 1977, the Committee has begun to review the logistical and administrative options to adjust to the new extended mandate.

Of course, resolution 1977 (2011) reaffirms the need for all Member States to comply fully with their obligations under 1540, and fulfil their commitments on non-proliferation and disarmament in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The Council noted that the long term task of full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. The mandate contained in resolution 1977 (2011) provides the 1540 Committee with a sound and efficient basis for its work over the next decade. The resolution *inter alia* mandates the Committee to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance its cooperation with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations and entities, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit. The Committee is also mandated to continue to refine its outreach efforts at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, and to continue to institute transparency measures, including through regular open meetings with Member States.

Let me present some recent activities of the 1540 Committee in different areas to reflect the role of the Committee and its experts to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540.

In the area of implementation, the Committee approved new matrices of all UN Member States in December 2010. These matrices included information from reports that the Committee continues to receive as well as information from

other official sources. The information in these matrices forms the foundation of the data that appear in the 2011 1540 Committee report to the Security Council, and as a tool for States to use as they assess their efforts to implement the resolution. I would like to emphasize that Resolution 1977 (2011) enhances the Committee's ability to work with Member States in a cooperative manner on their implementation efforts. Other cooperative tools the Committee can use include encouraging States to report on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, as some States have done already. The Committee also can actively engage in dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to States at their invitation. In that regard, the Committee conducted its first country visit to the United States last month, which already has provided lessons learned in preparing and conducting such visits, as well as learning about a number of potentially effective implementation practices proposed presented during the visit.

On assistance, the Committee has adopted revised procedures to address assistance requests. The Committee continues its efforts to strengthen its clearinghouse and match-making roles including by considering new guidelines, and by encouraging States to provide updated information regarding former assistance requests or offers as well as assistance points of contacts. The Committee also coordinates and facilitates technical assistance through such means as assistance templates and other information submitted to the Committee, as well as voluntary action plans and country visits.

The Committee also participated in discussions held in the framework of the G8 Global Partnership Working Group this month, and has engaged with other regional, sub-regional or specialized international organizations to encourage greater involvement in providing assistance to those States that require and ask for it. In addition, as a facilitator of technical assistance, the Committee supports financial contributions to the 1540 Committee through the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament to better resource select

UN activities. The Fund has already received contributions from many States and the European Union.

On cooperation, the Committee continues to engage with international organizations such as the IAEA, the OPCW, the BWC-Implementation Support Unit (ISU), FATF, and regional and sub regional organizations, such as CARICOM, the OAS, and the OSCE, along with relevant elements of civil society. The Committee also continues to enhance ongoing cooperation with the 1267/1989 and 1373 Committees, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), within their respective mandates.

An important element of this cooperation involves working with the organizations as well as with States to identify and share information on effective practices to implement the resolution. The Committee sees these organizations as authoritative repositories of the expertise that can develop best practices to guide States in their efforts to implement the resolution, in addition to such practices put forward by individual States. In its forthcoming report to the Security Council, the Committee shows where these organizations have introduced at least 23 new standards, codes, guidelines or similar practices of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) since its 2008 report.

On transparency and outreach, the Committee posted on its website approximately 179 of the Committee-approved matrices, as well as Information Notes on the outreach activities in which 1540 Committee Members and experts have participated during the recent years. The 1540 Committee and its experts continued to participate in outreach events to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540, in many regions. Thematically, other workshops focused more on specific transnational issues, including Export Controls (in Japan), Transshipment (in the United Arab Emirates), and countering proliferation financing (in France).

Concluding my presentation, I would like to express my hope that concerted efforts taken by the international community, and the UN in particular, to prevent access of non-state actors to weapons of mass destruction would enhance international peace and security. I would also like to express my appreciation to Poland for hosting this event, for its initiative and for its support of the 1540 Committee and its work. I look forward to any discussion where new ideas can be explored to further this goal. In that regard, I hope some of you can participate in or take note of some of the activities taking place alongside the release of the Committee's 2011 report to the Security Council on the status of implementation of the resolution.

Thank you.