

United Nations University Event

on

**“UNSC Resolution 1540: A Look at the 1540 Committee, Its New Mandate
and Efforts to Prevent the Proliferation of WMD to Non-State Actors”**

New York, 20 January 2012

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Draft

Statement by Ambassador Baso Sangqu

Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of
the UN Security Council

Distinguished Rector and distinguished participants,

On behalf of the 1540 Committee I have the honour to thank Dr. Konrad Osterwalder, the Rector of the United Nations University, for hosting this important event focused on the contribution of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in its effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) involving non-State actors. We appreciate the participation of

members of the permanent missions to the UN, international officials and representatives of the media, academia and civil society.

This is an occasion for us to introduce the work and new perspective of the 1540 Committee on the basis of the recent UN Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), which reaffirms the requirements of resolution 1540. The work of the Committee also takes into account the conclusions and recommendations of its 2009 Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540, as well as the third Report of the Committee submitted to the Security Council in 2011, and the 2011 annual review by the Committee now under discussion. As opening remarks, let me make the following points.

Resolution 1977 was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 20 April 2011, extending the mandate of the 1540 committee for a period of ten years until 25 April 2021. The Security Council recognized that full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States, including the adoption of national laws and enforcement measures, is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Resolution 1977 reaffirms the requirements of resolution 1540, which calls on all States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to address the proliferation threat posed by non-State actors. Such threats include the development, acquisition, possession, trafficking or use by non-state actors of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials. In order to achieve this, the new resolution also provides for two

comprehensive reviews on implementation -- one after five years in 2016 and the second before the end of the mandate in 2021.

Based on the positive experience gained from the 2009 Comprehensive Review, the 2016 and 2021 Comprehensive Reviews will use the 1540 Committee as a forum for all Member States to share experiences and express their views on various aspects of implementation of resolution 1540. In turn these might result in recommendations on adjustment of the work of the Committee to keep up with changing circumstances during the next ten years.

The 2011 Report of the 1540 Committee to the Security Council, covering the period from April 2008 to April 2011, takes stock of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 1540 during that period. .

The 2011 Report of the Committee notes that during the reporting period more States have taken new measures to comply with the obligations and recommendations contained in resolution 1540, as did the first two reports of the Committee to the Security Council. While the trend is encouraging, however, the 1540 Committee is aware that much work remains to be done for States to implement the resolution fully, and that this will require a long-term effort by States and others who may wish to support the implementation of the resolution.

Taking a long-term outlook, however, does not diminish the urgency that the Committee perceives in the need for States to take appropriate effective measures to combat the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. It also understands that terrorists, criminal organizations and other non-State actors can adapt their strategies and tactics to evade legal and enforcement efforts to prohibit or control activities as required under resolution 1540 (2004). Constant vigilance and flexibility by States and those bodies facilitating their work will be required to meet these emerging proliferation threats or new tactics by non-State actors.

The short-term focus of the Committee is to move forward with the outcome of the 2011 Report and the Annual Review for calendar year 2011, with recommendations for future action. The Committee will continue its work to implement resolution 1540, including through the work of its four Working Groups, focused on implementation, assistance, cooperation with international governmental organizations and transparency and media outreach. This work includes, inter alia:

- Continuing country-specific activities and dialogue with Member States, including through country visits at their invitation, to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540;
- Encouraging about 25 States that have not yet submitted a first report on implementation of resolution 1540 to do so, and to facilitate other States submitting additional information on new steps they have taken

or plan to take continuing to help States requesting assistance and to engage in match-making with those offering assistance;

- **Continuing cooperation with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as with relevant international organizations.**

Organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and bodies concerned with implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, other UN Security Council Committees or UN entities dealing with counter-terrorism, and with other entities in specialized fields such as customs, export controls, and countering the financing of proliferation or terrorism;

- **Increasing its ability to enable and expedite the sharing of lessons learned and effective practices** among States and the international community as a whole, so that States can put limited resources to the best use in their specific circumstances; and,

- **Optimizing the efficiency and enhance the effectiveness of the work of the 1540 Committee**, as detailed in new decisions taken by the Security Council, including its support from experts and the United Nation Secretariat.

I would like to conclude that the 1540 Committee considers it important to continue **raising awareness** about the risk from non-State actors proliferating and using WMD, particularly for terrorist purposes. The Committee is enhancing its transparency measures by upgrading and making full use of its website and by continuing its outreach activities to

Member States and to the public at large. It is in this context that we appreciate this important event, which we hope will be interactive. In that spirit, the Committee's experts will make a presentation in a moment and participate in what I hope will be a lively question and answer session. I thank again the UN University for making this event possible.