

Statement by the Chairman of the 1540 Committee Ambassador Kim Sook
To be delivered on his behalf by
Ms. Soledad Urruela Arenales (Guatemala), Member of the 1540 Committee
at a Meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security
Organization of American States
Washington D.C. 17 January 2013

On behalf of the 1540 Committee and of its Chairman, Ambassador Kim Sook (Republic of Korea), I would like to thank Ambassador Bayney Karran, Chairman of the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States for the invitation to address this meeting.

Regional and subregional organizations continue to play an important role in enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, the 1540 Committee welcomes the adoption of resolution AG/RES.2735, “Advancing Hemispheric Security: a multidimensional approach” adopted in Cochabamba, Bolivia last year which requested the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), through this Committee, to continue to assist member states with the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

I am convinced that this meeting will provide us with an excellent opportunity to exchange views on experiences, lessons learned, and identify specific areas for which assistance is needed for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

- **Evolution of the 1540 framework**

I would like to start by highlighting some developments since the former Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Baso Sangqu (South Africa), addressed this body in February 2011.

On 20 April 2011, the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution 1977, extending the mandate of the 1540 committee until 25 April 2021, and instructing the 1540 Committee to conduct a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of the resolution, both after five years and prior to the renewal of its mandate.

Resolution 1977 (2011) reaffirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. It also reaffirmed the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), which obliges all States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to address the proliferation threat posed by non-State actors.

The Security Council recognized also 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.

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 Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery to non-State actors.

It is also worth noting that this resolution reaffirmed the need for all Member States to comply fully with their obligations and fulfill their commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Resolution 1977 (2011) also encourages all States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the Committee. In this regard, the Committee welcomes the fact that three OAS Member States have so far presented national actions plans, namely Argentina, Canada and the United States.

Resolution 1977 (2011) also calls upon relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to designate and provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact or coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004); and encourages them to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

I would also like to highlight that on 29 June 2012, the Security Council adopted, also unanimously, resolution 2055 (2012), which enlarged the Group of experts of the 1540 Committee to nine individuals and this group is now fully operational.

- **Implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in OAS Member States**

Now, I would like to address some of the activities that have been taking place in the Americas and the cooperation between the OAS and the 1540 Committee.

In this regard, I would like to mention the participation of the 1540 Committee Group of Experts in the pilot project on physical protection and accounting of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials organized by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The pilot project included activities in Mexico (May 2011) and in Colombia (November 2011).

I would like also to highlight the cooperation between OAS and the 1540 Committee for the seminar for the Andean Region States held in Bogotá, Colombia from 12-14 March 2012. I also would like to acknowledge the collaboration of the OAS with States from Latin America, such as Mexico, on the development of their implementation work plans.

In June 2012, a 1540 expert participated in a technical meeting on the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and resolution 1540 (2004), organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Verification Research Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Ecuador that took place in Quito.

CARICOM promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region through continuous dialogue, and was in contact with the 1540 Committee experts on possible joint activities, such as visits to States at their invitation. Concerning these type of visits, I would like to highlight that from 12-16 September 2011, the Committee carried out the first visit to a member state of the OAS, namely the United States, at the invitation of its Government.

Throughout the visit, US officials and the documentation they made available demonstrated the strong commitment of the US Government to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery and any illicit trafficking of related materials, including through the implementation of resolution 1540.

In accordance with the mandate of the 1540 Committee, the visit was an opportunity to deepen the dialogue between the country concerned and the Committee. It allowed for a better understanding of US implementation, challenges, next steps and lessons learned, and allowed US officials to get first-hand information from the members of the Committee on many aspects of its activity.

- **Future work of the 1540 Committee**

I would like to use this opportunity to share with you some of the recommendations contained in the annual review that was submitted by the 1540 Committee to the Security Council last December, which will guide its work during the this year. These include:

- Continuing to encourage UN Member States to submit on a voluntary basis additional information on steps they have taken or intend to take, including on effective national practices and voluntary national implementation plans. In this regard, we welcome the latest report provided by the Government of Colombia.
- Seeking universal reporting by UN Member States, develop new opportunities for intensive bilateral discussions including on existing challenges and gaps in the implementation of the resolution. In this regard, we note that only one OAS member state has so far not presented its first report on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Focusing on a tailored dialogue with UN Member States which could be conducted, *inter alia*, through country-specific activities, including visits to States upon their invitation or, if necessary, through formal correspondence for better understanding of their particular concerns and assistance needs in order to facilitate their implementation tasks.
- Intensifying preparations for meetings on assistance, which aim to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by addressing important matters in this area, as encouraged in resolution 1977 (2011).
- Increasing efforts to identify assistance needs through dialogue at workshops, bilateral meetings, country-specific activities and other fora, encourage the

submission of formal assistance requests and encourage potential assistance providers to make offers.

- Continuing to promote visits to States at their invitation and country-specific activities. In this regard, the 1540 Committee recently responded positively to the invitation for a country visit from Trinidad and Tobago.
- Developing the Committee's strategy on engaging international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including on information sharing and exchange of experiences.
- Identifying relevant activities of international and regional organizations such as the OAS and encouraging them to inform the Committee, as appropriate, of the areas in which they are able to provide relevant assistance.
- Continuing to encourage the designation of points of contact by all relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and consider establishing a network between them that would include the Committee.
- Facilitating cooperation of the Committee with regional coordinators designated by relevant organizations such as CARICOM, OSCE and SICA for advancing the implementation of the resolution.
- Continuing to interact with relevant civil society entities and the private sector with, as appropriate, their State's consent, on sharing information and experiences with the Committee on 1540-related activities, in order to help define the parameters of their involvement in the process of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- **Conclusion**

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that the Committee stands ready to continue cooperating with the OAS and to assist its Member States, at their request, in the implementation of measures related to our common endeavor of addressing the threat of terrorism and preventing non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.