



Statement

By

Angela Kane

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs



Dinner on the occasion of the
High Level Event
on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
New York, 10 December 2012

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to join the Secretary-General in expressing my gratitude to Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, as well as to Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chairman of the 1540 Committee, for organising this event.

It was encouraging to learn that the Government of Saudi Arabia has specifically earmarked half a million dollars in support of national and other activities promoting the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including through international cooperation. I also would like to thank Saudi Arabia for hosting a 1540 regional workshop in December 2010.

I also would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and active role of Ambassador Naif Bin Bandar Al Sudairy, one of the leading disarmament diplomats who, this year, was elected as a Vice-Chair of the Disarmament Commission.

The period since the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) saw a steady and consistent strengthening of an international consensus in support of the resolution's non-proliferation objectives and efforts to achieve them based on growing international cooperation, partnerships and interaction.

My Office considers support to the 1540 Committee to be an integral and important part of its overall activities. I strongly believe that the ultimate objective of the resolution – to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors – is fully consistent with UNODA's overall mandate to bring about a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

In providing support to the 1540 Committee, my Office focuses on three key areas.

The first is facilitating national implementation efforts of Member States including through country-specific activities as well as enhanced regional approaches to the 1540 implementation.

The second is on bringing together relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to build synergies of their efforts in support of their respective Member States in implementing the key requirements of the resolution.

And thirdly, UNODA is devoting its efforts to the creation of productive and innovative partnerships with civil society, which increasingly contributes to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts of the United Nations.

This year, my Office supported, organized or co-organized nineteen country-specific and regional 1540-related events devoted to national and regional implementation, the most recent ones being the workshops held last November in Pretoria and New Delhi. As a result of these efforts, a number of States have submitted or are in the process of finalizing their national action implementation plans, as is called for under Security Council resolution 1977 (2011).

I should note that most of these activities were carried out in cooperation with regional organizations, in particular the OSCE in Europe and OAS in the Americas. In addition, many of these events entailed the participation of other international organizations, in particular, the IAEA, OPCW and WHO. This demonstrates the growing international cooperation and engagement on the matter.

This year has also marked significant progress in strengthening our partnership with civil society.

The first two issues of the journal “1540 Compass” have been published. The journal offers a platform for sharing experience in implementing resolution 1540 and advances ideas which could assist the international community in bolstering existing cooperation and forging new partnerships.

In April this year, a conference on resolution 1540 (2004) for industry associations – co-organized by the Government of Germany and UNODA – took place in Wiesbaden, Germany and launched a promising process of increased engagement with the industries.

Next month in Vienna, UNODA, in cooperation with the Government of Austria, will hold the first Forum for Civil Society representatives on resolution 1540 (2004). This Forum will provide opportunities for increased contributions of civil society in support of the national and international implementation efforts. Some 50 civil society organizations will be attending this meeting.

The success that ODA has had in the three focus areas I just described would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our donors. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Governments of Norway and the United States for their support to this year’s activities.

I understand that the European Union (EU) will soon finalize a new decision on a grant in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Such a grant would be in addition to those already provided by the EU in 2006 and 2008 and for which we are most appreciative.

Clearly, the successful implementation of the resolution will continue to rely upon the commitment and national efforts of Member States themselves.

On our part, and taking inspiration from a famous saying by US President Kennedy, we should ask not what Member States can do for us, but also what we, as the United Nations, can do for our Member States.

In careful and attentive listening to Member States' aspirations, I see great opportunities for progress. Of course, it is entirely up to the Security Council and its 1540 Committee to determine the specifics of the way ahead and the best ways to fulfil the mandate of assisting Member States in implementing resolutions adopted by the Council, especially under Chapter VII of the Charter.

My Office remains an active partner in supporting such efforts, as we look forward to the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as one of the vital tools to bring about the total freedom from all weapons of mass destruction, everywhere.

I thank you for your attention.