

**Message from the Chair of the Security Council 1540 Committee,  
Ambassador Oh Joon, to the Workshop on “The Contribution of the  
UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) to Regional and Global Disarmament and  
Non-Proliferation”**

11-12 March 2014  
Astana, Kazakhstan

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen

I express my gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their efforts to host and organize this meeting. Unfortunately, due to the previous arrangements, I cannot attend this workshop. However, I am grateful for the opportunity to convey a message to you.

This year is an important anniversary milestone for resolution 1540(2004). We commemorate the tenth year of the Security Council’s unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 (2004). This resolution, for the first time, placed binding obligations on all States under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to address the threat that non-State actors may acquire WMD s and their means of delivery. Its subsequent resolution, resolution 1977 in 2011, extended the mandate of the Committee until 2021. As such, the implementation of 1540 is a long-term task that requires constant attention and adaptation on the part of all States in light of the continuously evolving scientific, technological, political and commercial environment

In commemoration of the landmark 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Committee has decided on a number of goals and initiatives to be achieved throughout the year. These include hosting a series of outreach events and joint briefings as

well as raising awareness to civil society and academia. On February 28th, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization kick-started the series by providing an informative briefing to the UN Member States in New York on the essential partnership between the WCO and the 1540 Committee. Later this year on May 7<sup>th</sup>, I intend to lead a Security Council Open debate with an aim of adopting a Presidential Statement in support of this resolution when I serve as the President of the Security Council in May

As we mark the tenth anniversary this year, we also look forward to the full support of Member States to achieve universal reporting. I am pleased to inform you that so far 171 out of the 193 UN Member States have voluntarily reported on the steps they have taken to implement resolution 1540. We are getting close, but it will require more intensified efforts to encourage the remaining 22 States to report.

Another key focus for the Committee this year is to explore ways to further enhance the Committee's role as assistance facilitator to better respond to the calls of Member States. The importance of assistance cannot be overstated as it allows States to strengthen national capabilities to implement its requirements, and to lay the foundation for improved mechanisms for sharing effective practices and promoting their collaboration with relevant international organizations. With regard to our mandate to promote capacity building, the Committee has an important role in matching requests for assistance from Member States, to offers made by States and organisations to provide assistance. Therefore, the 1540 Committee encourages those States that require assistance in meeting their 1540 obligations to send requests to the Chair of the Committee. At the same time, those States and international and regional organisations that can provide assistance are also encouraged to inform the Chair of the Committee of their readiness to do so.

In the same vein, the Committee will continue to focus its attention on raising global awareness of resolution 1540. In 2013 alone, Committee members – including myself, and our supporting Group of Experts – participated in 90 events organized by various governments, and international and regional organizations, in many cases with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Indications are that we will be in strong demand again this year.

From a thematic point of view, these outreach activities promote the implementation of resolution 1540 by helping enhance Member States' national implementation arrangements. Country visits have been conducted specifically to assist in the development of their voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs), as well as to review particular issues such as export and border controls, nuclear and chemical security, biosecurity, and proliferation financing. While some of these activities have been conducted directly with States, we have found regional organisations particularly helpful as key players in the facilitation and the successful conduct of these events. This has been particularly true in our collaboration with the African Union, CARICOM, the OSCE, the CIS and others.

Distinguished participants of the workshop,

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Government of Kazakhstan to enhance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through a financial contribution to the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities.

In September 2011, an important workshop was held here, in Astana, which furthered the process of 1540 implementation. This workshop facilitated the decision by some States of Central Asia and beyond to submit voluntary

national implementation action plans and additional information to the Committee. In light of the resolution's 10th anniversary, I hope that interaction between the 1540 Committee and those participating in this year's workshop will also contribute to our driving goal of full implementation.

We are aware that the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-State actors is still a real risk in the world, including Central Asia. Looking ahead, we should acknowledge that the implementation of the resolution is an ongoing process with new challenges constantly emerging. We also have to adapt to the new realities in furthering the resolution's objectives.

In this regard, initiatives taken by States themselves play an important role. It is encouraging that some States are ready to seek new forms of collaboration and are open to new ideas and suggestions. For example, a peer review process has been initiated between States that is designed to review each other's implementation of the resolution. This innovative approach has proved to be an interesting experience.

In conclusion, I wish this workshop a successful outcome. I am convinced that through a constructive discussion on how to enhance implementation of the resolution, in particular in Central Asia, including by identifying effective practices and experiences, will help us to meet the existing and future challenges and will contribute to the achievement of our common goal of preventing non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

I thank you.