

**Chair's Remarks for the 12th ROK-UN Joint Conference
on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues
Jeju, ROK, 14-15 November 2013**

**- 2014, the Year of Universality: Challenges and Strategies for Attaining
Universal Reporting on 1540 Implementation -**

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 12th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues. Today, I am delivering a statement on behalf of Ambassador Oh Joon, Chair of the Security Council 1540 Committee. First of all, I would like to join others in recognising the participation of Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, at this event. My thanks also go to the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for the Asia Pacific in organizing this conference.

Security Council resolution 1540, a landmark resolution as expressed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, represents a significant milestone in the efforts of the international community to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery with a focus on non-State actors. Recognizing its valuable contribution, the 1540 Committee's mandate was extended for a period of 10 years in 2011 by resolution 1977, putting resolution 1540 on a firm and long-term footing.

With the year 2014 in the door step, the 1540 Committee is now preparing for next year's 10th anniversary celebrating the adoption of the resolution. But before I turn to the future, allow me to look back at our footprints. I am pleased to note that the steady progress has been made in the implementation of the resolution. To date 171 States have submitted their national reports. A number of them submitted multiple reports showing their continued commitments towards full implementation. Considering that reporting is voluntary, the reporting record of around 89% of the UN membership is truly remarkable.

Albeit voluntary, I should mention that reporting from Member States is a meaningful contribution to the work of the Committee. Indeed, it is a necessary first step to assessing gaps in legislation, regulations, and enforcement. This assessment will help Member States to address such gaps and to strengthen our individual and collective measures against proliferation threats. I should stress that all States are important as the global non-proliferation system is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that initial reports have been submitted by almost all Asia and Pacific countries, with the exception of three states. Among the 22 non-reporting countries, 18 are in Africa and 1 is in the Americas.

Let me briefly touch upon the African continent. The commitments of African States in preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring WMD-related materials are not in doubt. Nonetheless, there are steep challenges that each country faces. As each of them is unique, it will be difficult to make an overarching diagnosis or offer silver bullet remedies. Yet small and developing countries often lack resources and institutional capacity and also face competing priorities.

In trying to address these challenges, the Committee has undertaken several steps to assist those States that need assistance. First of all, the Chair and his team actively took part in reaching out to the Missions based in New York. In July and August this year, the team met with representatives from 16 non-reporting States on a bilateral basis. Since then, Liberia and South Sudan submitted their initial reports. The Chair intends to continue this endeavour.

In terms of broader engagement with Africa, the forthcoming workshop on 1540 implementation hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will serve as a timely opportunity to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540. The Committee Chair plans to attend this meeting and would seize the opportunity to meet as many delegations as possible. Through this workshop,

we expect that the African countries' commitments will be further operationalized, thus promoting universal reporting.

In supporting Member States on the implementation of resolution 1540, the Committee has also been actively engaging in dialogue with States through visits to states at their invitation. The 1540 Committee has conducted such visits to a number of Member States, both large and small, including the United States, Trinidad Tobago and Grenada. Today, a visit to Burkina Faso is in progress with the participation of a 1540 Committee member and experts. Following this workshop, I will lead the 1540 Committee team to Seoul to conduct a country visit, which is the first in the Asian region. The 1540 Committee is also working with Mozambique, a non-reporting State, for a country visit in 2014.

Turning back to the challenges that especially small and developing countries often face, I believe that more work needs to be done on the following areas. First, Member States should be able to receive direct and practical assistance to facilitate their implementation. Specific assistance matchmaking system will be explained in greater detail by my colleague, Ms. Pia Poroli, who is also a Committee Member, later in this session.

Second, Member States should be able to access easily to the examples that they wish to refer to. In this regard, the Committee Chair has dispatched note verbales to all Member States and other international and regional entities to submit their effective practices on a voluntary basis. I would kindly request national representatives here to consider submitting your country's own experience and lessons learned as much as possible.

Lastly, and perhaps more importantly, Member States should be able to recognize that the implementation of resolution 1540 can indeed address their needs. In other words, by strengthening the necessary security architectures against WMD proliferation, States would also be able to address other traditional security and broader development concerns. For instance, improvement in the detection capabilities can contribute to enhanced border

controls and other related benefits. Measures against proliferation financing will in turn be conducive to strengthening national capacities to address money laundering and terrorist financing as well. Furthermore, guarantees for safe flow of people, material and finance will help foster an enabling environment for economic development.

I should also like to stress the importance of regular additional reporting. While voluntary, it is important for countries to keep the international community informed of their implementation of the resolution. In this regard, I should draw your attention again to resolution 1977 that called on States, on a voluntary basis, to develop national implementation action plans mapping out their priorities and strategies to implement key obligations. Overall, as of today, the Committee has received seven national action plans. It has also been formally advised of Points of Contacts for 63 States and 12 international and regional organisations. More voluntary national action plans are in the pipeline.

Another important initiative to reach out to Member States and promote universal reporting was made recently. On October 7, the 1540 Committee Chair participated in the 2013 Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly. It was the first direct engagement between the 1540 Committee Chair and the IPU. Parliamentary delegations expressed their firm support for resolution 1540 during the special session organized to this effect. The event contributed to raising awareness among legislators and opened door for the extended cooperation between 1540 Committee and parliamentarians. In particular, the UN Committee Chair asked all IPU Member Parliaments to take the work back to their capitals and promote full implementation at the regional level.

As we approach the end of the year, we have a packed agenda before us. As we look forward to exploiting the tenth anniversary of the resolution in 2014, your input will be most valuable in moving the international community forward from a decade of awareness-raising to a new decade of universal and full implementation.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to our discussion today.

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