

**Message from the Chairman of the 1540 Committee on the Occasion of the Visit by  
Representatives of the Committee to the Republic of Korea  
18 November 2013**

I have the honour to deliver a message to the Republic of Korea at the beginning of this visit to the country, as part of the global efforts to bring the implementation of the resolution to the highest possible standard. Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their delivery means and related materials, to non-State actors is a critical challenge.

In order to meet the international obligations called for by resolution 1540 (2004), national governments need to be in constant state of review and vigilance. Relevant entities, particularly those in industry, also need to be involved. Indeed, implementation of the resolution has to take place against the backdrop of the scientific and technological changes in our increasingly globalized world. The need for refocused vigilance in this regard was recognised by the Security Council by the adoption of resolution 1977 in 2011. This resolution extended the mandate of the Committee that oversees the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to 2021.

Resolution 1977 recognizing the importance of dialogue between the 1540 Committee and Member States and stressing that direct contact is an effective means of such dialogue, encourages the 1540 Committee to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540, including through visits to States at their invitation. These visits are carried out in order to assist in the review of how the obligations under the resolution are being met with a view towards identifying any gaps or areas of improvement. To be successful, this requires an inter-agency effort within governments. As the Committee knows from its experience around the world, this is not an easy task. The United States was the first country to invite the Committee to visit, followed by Madagascar, Albania, Republic of Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and, just last week, Burkina Faso. More invitations are in the pipeline.

Secondly, resolution 1977 encourages States to prepare on a voluntary basis National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) that lay out steps for enhancing national implementation. NAPs could also identify actions that States could take to promote more effective implementation internationally. However, we must be reminded of the fact that the effectiveness of the implementation is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. It is therefore in everyone's interest to share best practices with each other in this regard. Action in this area could, if within a State's capacity, be included in a NAP.

On behalf of the Chair of the Security Council 1540 Committee, I would like to express our thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea, for this opportunity to help in the process of enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Thank you.