

“ Eight International Export Control Conference ”
Bucharest, Romania, 6 – 8 March 2007

Statement by ambassador Peter Burian
Chairman of UN SC 1540 Committee

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to organizers, to the governments of Romania and United States, for hosting this Conference, already its 8th series, and for giving me the possibility to address the audience today, as it strives to focus on export controls that is an important part of the requirements set out in the UN SC Resolutions 1540 and 1673.

It is an honour for me to update the community of export control practitioners, from many countries of the region and from various export control organizations, on the work of the 1540 Committee. Since my presentation will be followed by Mr. Rick Cupitt who works as an expert of the 1540 Committee, I would like to focus myself on the latest and upcoming events which are drawing attention of the Committee, as well as the interested observers from the outside of the Security Council.

As you are aware, on 23rd April, only a couple of days ago, the UN Security Council met to discuss the issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the possibilities of cooperation with international organizations. Three of them – Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Customs Organization (WCO) and a number of interested countries participated in the debate that was in fact valued positively by all participants.

Based on our experience acquired during the Chairmanship of the 1540 Committee since January 2006, the basic underlying

motivation for organizing an open debate of the Security Council on the issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was, to create an opportunity for States and **relevant** invited organizations that are directly mentioned in resolution 1540 and also regularly participate in outreach activities of the 1540 Committee for sharing experience and lessons learned.

Besides acknowledging with appreciation the work of organizations with expertise in non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, one of the most important results achieved at the Open Debate, was the affirmation of the Security Council's determination to promote **increased multilateral cooperation** – as an important way to boost worldwide implementation of its three-year-old resolution 1540 adopted in 2004. As it is clearly confirmed in the outcome of the Open Debate, in the Presidential Statement, which reminds *inter alia* that “*The Security Council is mindful of the need to further explore with international, regional and sub regional organizations experience- sharing and lessons learned in areas covered by resolution 1540, and the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of the resolution*”.

However, the results of work done by the Committee thus far indicate that resolution 1540 will not be fully implemented by the end of its existing mandate in April 2008. Nevertheless, the Committee is now making all efforts to move from the phase of promotion of the aims of the resolutions, to the phase of assistance in the implementation of all aspects of both resolutions 1540 and 1673.

It is also clear that this task is too complex, to be fulfilled by a single UN Security Council subsidiary body. Hence, in my view and in view of many other delegations, the co-operation among, and even coordination of some activities of various international, regional and sub regional bodies should be used more effectively

and put into practice. Let me inform you about some particular activities.

IAEA briefed the Council about a number of measures in the nuclear field established by the organization that are relevant to resolution 1540. The Agency has also established a Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009 provided a compilation of the activities and a plan for their implementation.

Director General of the OPCW referred the Security Council to measures in the operative paragraphs of resolution 1540 that are dealing with chemical weapons and correspond to obligations of States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. This substantiates the importance of cooperation an exchange of views and to some extent also a coordination of activities in the appropriate areas.

The 1540 Committee has also already established cooperation with export control regimes as well. In October 2006, the Chairman of the Plenary of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to briefed the Committee about the recent activities of the group which were to a great extent relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540. Representatives of the NSG met also the group of experts of the Committee and they have discussed possibilities in strengthening of mutual cooperation that would mostly anticipate exchange of information between both bodies.

In less than two weeks the Committee will be briefed by the Chairman of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) about their activities relevant to the implementation of resolution. We expect an even more thorough discussion on topics that are also relevant to the resolutions 1540 and 1673.

But I would like to stress, that it is well understood that the responsibility in fulfilling the obligations of resolutions 1540 and 1673 lies upon each individual country.

In the list of participants in this conference I can see a number of countries with a matured export control systems and many other countries which are currently developing their export control systems. At this point, I can comfortably say that countries of a wider European region are more advanced in the level of implementation of resolution 1540 than other regions of the world.

However, there are many countries that have very limited resources for a creation of national authorities securing the controls of borders, exports, imports. It is not an easy task to create a legal and administrative system that will secure the overall control of movement of any sensitive goods. Just to give you an example, there are countries with very small governmental bodies, in some cases ministries have only less than 5 persons. Even if those countries would not be targets of proliferation activities their territories could be still abused for that aim for example as a transit point. This is just one reason for the creation of a comprehensive national system for controlling of the export or import of sensitive goods or technologies in those countries would not be as simple as it would seem at a first glance.

In my view and in view of members of the Security Council, many international organizations and multilateral arrangements, including those who are participating in this conference, have the base of knowledge and experience that could be accordingly used by States in providing them the assistance for full implementation of resolutions 1540 a 1673.

Since the Committee has only limited resources, it is not its intention to create any new standards or best practices or most commonly used practices in various fields of controls of sensitive

goods and technologies. Any existing best practices or if you like most commonly used should be put into practice by all countries so that it will help them to fulfil their obligations coming from both resolutions.

The work of the Committee is therefore concentrating more on serving as a clearing house for providing of assistance from those who have resources and capacities to those who lack them. The aim is to improve the cooperation and where appropriate even coordination among international, regional, and sub-regional organizations including multilateral export control arrangements that are dealing with any of relevant aspects of resolution 1540.

I would like to conclude by using the words as they were stressed by one delegation and backed by others in the Open Debate on 23rd February 2007, “... *we need to work at all levels – nationally, sub-regionally, and internationally. We need a coalition of all those who are able to help ...*”. Forasmuch as multilateral cooperation could work to advance the national security interests of all states and the strengthening of international peace and security.

Again, I would like to thank all the organizers for a possibility to address the issue of non-proliferation of sensitive goods and technologies that is finally of our common interest. I would also like to wish well to all participants, a successful conference a positive outcome and thank the participants for their attention.

Thank you very much.