



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

**Statement by Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chair of the 1540 Committee,
at the United Nations Security Council Joint Briefing of the
Committee Established Pursuant to Resolutions 1267 and 1989 and the
Committees Established Pursuant to Resolutions 1373 and 1540**

14 November 2012

Mr. President, Distinguished members of the Committees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide a short summary of the work of the 1540 Committee since our last joint meeting in May, to complement the key points provided by Ambassador Puri in the joint statement.

As you know, my tenure as a Chairperson of the 1540 Committee is coming to a close and since this is my last joint briefing, I would like to thank you, the Security Council, and the Secretariat for the support you have given me and the 1540 Committee these past 2 years. Together, we raised the global awareness of resolution 1540, facilitated assistance to States to allow them to strengthen national capabilities to implement its requirements, and laid the foundation for improved mechanisms for sharing of the most effective practices for national implementation and promoted synergy with other international organizations.

These are just some of the areas the Committee will continue to focus its attention on, in accordance with its Eleventh Program of Work which we transmitted to the Council on 22 August 2012. The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the

implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004), and 1977 (2011), as guided by the principles of transparency, equal opportunity, cooperation and consistency in its approach.

In accordance with resolution 1977 and within its mandate, the 1540 Committee has continued to engage in various outreach activities to promote the full implementation of resolution 1540, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, capacity building and technical assistance in the areas covered by the resolution. Since May this year, the 1540 Committee and its Experts participated in fourteen outreach events organized inter alia by inter-governmental organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), European Union, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), respectively, in collaboration at times with various governmental and non-governmental entities. In the spirit of transparency required by Resolution 1977, information about these outreach events is posted on the 1540 Committee website.

Resolution 1977 also calls upon all States that have not yet presented a first report to the Committee to submit such a report to the Committee without delay. All States that have submitted such reports are also encouraged to provide, when appropriate or upon the request of the 1540 Committee, additional information on their implementation of resolution 1540. I am pleased to report that since our last meeting, the number of States that have not submitted a report yet has been reduced to twenty-four as the Republic of the Congo has recently submitted its first report on the implementation of the resolution.

As part of its report to the 1540 Committee, the Republic of the Congo has submitted a request for assistance in particular areas. The request has been passed to potential assistance providers, for their consideration. The Committee is looking forward to working with the African States to assist them in meeting their reporting requirements by sharing information and practices on implementation of resolution 1540 through outreach events, coordination with the point of contact established by the African Union Commission (AUC), and improved synergy with international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO), the G8 Global Partnership (GP), and the Biological Weapons Convention- Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU) on providing 1540-relevant assistance. The Government of South Africa will also provide an opportunity to examine the way forward in this regard through a *Workshop for African States on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)* to be held later this month in Pretoria.

The improved reporting record of Member States is to be welcomed. There appears to be a better understanding of the challenges of national implementation and the development of tailored strategies to facilitate assistance for overcoming such potential challenges. In this connection I am pleased to note that we received a second national report from Afghanistan.

Operative Paragraph 8 of Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540

Committee. We are pleased to report that since our last briefing, Serbia submitted its National Action Plan for 2012-2016. According to the information received by the Committee, a number of other States are in the process of updating or preparing their initial National Action Plans.

By resolution 2055 (2012), adopted on 29 June 2012, the Security Council emphasized the significantly increased workload of the Committee over the course of its mandate and requested the Secretary-General to increase the size of the group of experts to up to nine experts. On 3 July 2012, the Committee informed the Secretariat that, after extensive consultations on its group of experts, the Committee had agreed on nine candidates and in this connection requested that the Secretary-General take the necessary measures to establish the group of experts in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011) and resolution 2055 (2012). I am pleased to report today that 6 out of 9 Experts are currently on board and we will soon have the entire group effectively established, thus enhancing the capacity of the 1540 Committee to efficiently carry out its mandate.

I have mentioned at the beginning of my statement, the 1540 Committee's Eleventh Program of Work through 31 May 2013. I would like to note briefly that this new Program of Work emphasizes inter alia, the 1540 Committee's cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) specifically on considering the expansion of our common strategy on reporting and also on developing a more coordinated approach to sub-regional workshops, in line with paragraph 36 of resolution 1822 (2008) and within our respective mandates.

With input from the 1540 Committee's Working Group on Assistance, and also from the Committee's Working Group on Cooperation with International Organizations, including the Security Council committees established pursuant to Resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), where appropriate, we will continue to participate in outreach activities at the international and regional levels. We will also continue to promote our engagement with the States, effective dialogue and cooperative action on non-proliferation to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and their means of delivery.

I would like to conclude my statement by mentioning that with the end of my tenure as the Chairperson of the 1540 Committee drawing near, I encourage you to keep in mind our shared commitment to prevent non-state actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Thank you, Mr. President.
