

**Statement to the Security Council**  
**by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi**  
**Chair of the Security Council Committee Established Pursuant to**  
**Resolution 1540 (2004)**  
New York 16 June 2015

On behalf of the UN Security Council's Committee overseeing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) I am pleased to report on progress since our last report in November 2014.

After a very successful tenth anniversary year since the adoption of the resolution in 2004 we have been able to build on the momentum imparted by the special events described in our last report. Since the last report the Committee has submitted to the Council its 2014 Annual Review of Implementation and its Programme of Work for 2015. The Committee's Programme of Work for this year includes the all-important Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (called for in resolution 1977 (2011)). I will return to this later.

At the outset a reminder of the proliferation risks we face is not out of place - even for this well-informed body. Resolution 1540 is a preventive resolution. The potentially devastating effects of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, and possibly into the hands of terrorists, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. You are already only too well aware of the readiness of non-State groups and individuals with extreme or apocalyptic views have demonstrated their readiness to use extreme violence in various parts of the world. While much of the activity surrounding UN resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concern procedures, compliance mechanisms and the like, we

should not lose sight of what we are trying to prevent. There are risks that nuclear, chemical or biological weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists. Given the global nature of the challenge posed by the proliferation of the capabilities and technologies that can be used by non-State actors for this purpose no State is exempt from making every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

A wide range of activity is embraced in implementing the obligations under resolution 1540. Among them are export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. While it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures in place, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems. Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks. These need to be countered by the adaptation of measures in place or by the introduction of new measures. Effective implementation requires constant attention.

I am glad to report that the overwhelming majority of States have demonstrated their commitment to resolution 1540, and through reporting to the 1540 Committee provided valuable information on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is worthy of note that to date 174 countries have reported on the measures they have taken for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that ninety per cent of UN Member States have reported. This is a practical indication of a commitment to inform the Committee of their implementation efforts in meeting the objectives of the resolution and enables the 1540 Committee to engage in dialogue with States. I should point out that reporting just once,

given the necessarily dynamic nature of compliance measures and activities, is not enough. Regular additional reporting and updating is important so that the status of implementation can be reflected and assessed accurately.

While reporting is important, what really matters is the effectiveness of the practical steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful step in this regard is for States to develop voluntary National Implementation Plans (NAP) as encouraged by resolution 1977 (2011) (Operative Paragraph 8). In this process, if it is to work, all the key national stakeholders that need to be involved in 1540 implementation have to be engaged. This helps to identify actions to close any gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and controls. I am glad to say there has been a significant increase in the number of States submitting these plans and putting in hand their development in all regions of the world.

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The 1540 Committee is very keen to enhance the role of 1540 national Points of Contact. The Committee is seeking ways to develop them into a “living network” to build on their potential to play an important part in maintaining and improving 1540 implementation. The Committee has put in hand the development of a syllabus for a training course for National Points of Contact. It is planned that this training should be conducted on a regional basis. The first courses are likely to be in Asia and Latin America later this year and early 2016.

One of the priority areas the Committee is focusing on is improving the system of assistance that is designed to facilitate the capacity building of States that request help in improving their implementation of the 1540 obligations. In particular, the Committee seeks to work with international and regional organisations to help States articulate their assistance needs. By doing so, an

assisting State or organisation can respond effectively – whether from within the region or without. Also the Committee would welcome ideas on how we might make the assistance mechanism more efficient and responsive.

Since our last report the Committee and its Group of Experts has maintained the momentum of outreach events in the course of the fulfilment of the Committee's Programme of Work. A top priority is direct engagement with States through visits, at their invitation, and national roundtables. A particular effort is being made in this regard to engage the remaining 19 non-reporting States. In the course of this process increased use has been made of the support that can be offered by regional organisations, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs' (UNODA) regional centres. We have also intensified our engagement with directly related international organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – as well as those bodies that support related Committees such as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) as you have heard in the other briefings today. In May I met with the Director-General of the IAEA and the Executive Director of UNODC with the objective enhancing our collaboration and to develop inputs for the Committee's Comprehensive Review.

Transparency and outreach is vital to the effective implementation of the resolution. With this in mind the Committee is seeking ways to make better use of social media and other means of communication. For example, we have instituted a quarterly message from the Chair that goes out to the wider resolution 1540 network including civil society. A special effort is being made to engage parliamentarians through, for example, the Interparliamentary Union. Also the Committee's direct engagement with industry continues through the

so-called “Wiesbaden Process”, hosted by Germany, in which the fourth conference in the series will take place later this year.

I would like to turn now to the Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540. In accordance with Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided on two reviews of the status of implementation of the resolution - one five years after the adoption of the resolution and a second prior to expiry of the 1540 Committee’s mandate in 2021. In its charge to the Committee the Security Council said that it should include, I quote, “if necessary, recommendations on adjustments to the mandate, and will submit to the Security Council a report on the conclusions of those reviews, and *decides* that, accordingly, the first review should be held before December 2016”. In the Committee’s view this Review should be both retrospective and forward-looking. It should draw on an analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since the 2009 Review, with the aim of improving the implementation of the resolution by Member States, by identifying and recommending specific, practical and appropriate actions to this end, and to analyse the operation of the Committee in the conduct of its tasks and recommend any changes considered necessary.

The Committee has agreed the modalities for the Review that follows four key strands of work. They are:

- Using currently available data from reports by States, and publicly available official information, the Committee will make an analysis of the status of implementation of the resolution including identifying the key trends in implementation since the 2009 Review. Based on this analysis, it should identify shortcomings in the current system of data collection, storage, retrieval, presentation including in reporting by States and sharing of effective practices. An important element in this theme is to

draw on the experience with direct interactions with States and thereby identify appropriate ways to intensify and promote these interactions.

- Drawing on the experience in operating the 1540 assistance mechanism in the course of the Review we should analyse the Committee's role in facilitating match-making, as mentioned earlier, and identify improvements to bring about the prompt delivery of assistance. The Committee is already putting into effect improvements to the approach to facilitating assistance – in particular by using a regional approach.
- With regard to cooperation with international organisations, in the course of the Review we believe that we should seek improved ways of enhancing the collaboration of the Committee with directly related international organisations. With respect to regional organisations we should identify better methods for their support for building networks of 1540 Points of Contact. As I noted earlier training courses for national points of contact will help a great deal in promoting effective implementation, encouraging reporting to the Committee and developing opportunities for the Committee's direct interactions with States. Other approaches should be examined.
- Last, but by no means least, the Review should examine the Committee's outreach to States and civil society including academia, industry, professional associations and parliamentarians. In this regard, I believe that we need to seek to do this through publications and electronic means and, as appropriate, the use of social media and endeavour to build a wider 1540 network including, in an appropriate way, civil society.

The Committee is developing a schedule of work to conduct the Review with the aim of meeting the deadline of submitting a report to the Security Council before December 2016. The schedule of work over the coming year will include opportunities to gain the views of Member States in the course of the process.

This will be achieved through planned outreach events and some dedicated ones. The plan will also to include consultation with international organisations and civil society including parliamentarians and industry. As with most aspects of resolution 1540 its implementation is very much a collaborative effort – I hope that this characteristic will be an important feature of the Comprehensive Review. The active participation of Member States and, as appropriate, civil society is much needed – and will be sought.

Before closing I should also thank those that have given support to enable to Committee to carry out its Programme of Work either through voluntary financial contributions by States such as Andorra, Kazakhstan, Norway the Republic of Korea, United States and the European Union; as well as from private foundations such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York – or in other forms of support, notably by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

I very much look forward to discussing the points I have raised with you in order to advance the 1540 Committee's collaboration with the key stakeholders to promote effective implementation of resolution 1540 and thereby help prevent a deadly catastrophe.

Thank you for your attention.

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