



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

**Statement by Ambassador Oh Joon, Chair of the 1540 Committee,
to the United Nations Security Council
*24 November 2014***

Members of the Security Council,

In my capacity as Chair of the 1540 Committee, I am pleased to report to the Council on progress made in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since the last meeting on 28 May 2014.

I would like to begin by noting that this month, as an exception to the established practice of joint briefings by the three Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), and 1267 (1999), it has been decided that the 1540 Committee brief the Council separately.

This is due to the specific circumstance that the other two Committees have already briefed the Council at the open debate on counter-terrorism on 19 November. Today's separate briefing will not constitute a precedent for the future.

Looking back on the work of the 1540 Committee this year, I would like to once again express my appreciation for the support given by the Security Council in the Open Debate on resolution 1540 (2004) on 7 May.

The strong support for resolution 1540 and this Committee, expressed in the Presidential Statement and the individual statements by more than 60 Member States, provided an important impetus to our work. The Presidential Statement also set out some of the key areas that the Committee should focus its efforts on in the years ahead. This provides a valuable guideline for our preparation for the Comprehensive Review to be conducted by the end of 2016.

Guided by the PRST and the Committee's 13th Program of Work, we continued to give a high priority to encouraging reporting from those States that have not yet submitted their first reports.

With the support of our group of experts, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and its regional offices, three special meetings were held in Pretoria, Libreville and Lomé, respectively, to engage the non-reporting States. Through these meetings and other events, we have engaged directly with 18 of the 21 non-reporting States.

Since the last joint briefing in May, 1540 Committee members and its experts have continued to participate in various outreach events, bringing the total so far this year to 59. Seven more events are scheduled in the remainder of this year.

The value of direct interaction with States, in particular visits to Member States by their invitation, was once again demonstrated. For example, as a direct result of the visit to Malawi, this State submitted its first report to the Committee, reducing the total of non-reporting States to 20.

The visits to China last month and to the United Kingdom earlier this month also provided good opportunities to promote the Committee's understanding of these States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to identify effective practices.

Other direct interactions with States since our last report have included national round tables with 1540 stakeholders in Cambodia, Colombia, Grenada, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. They have helped in the identification of assistance requirements for capacity building and in the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP).

We have had some valuable regional and sub-regional events in partnership with relevant international organisations. For example, our experts have recently participated in three regional events on nuclear, chemical and biological security with INTERPOL in Thailand, Ethiopia and Tajikistan.

Last month, I participated in the “Regional Workshop on Promoting Full Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)” held in Seoul, organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea in cooperation with UNODA.

This meeting engaged representatives from more than 30 countries in Asia and other regions, as well as 10 relevant international and regional organisations. The event provided a timely opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asian region, as well as to exchange views on the future strategies ahead of the Comprehensive Review to be conducted by the end of 2016.

As part of the efforts to reach out to the private sector, I participated in the Wiesbaden 2014 Conference last week, hosted by the Government of Germany with the cooperation of the EU and UNODA.

This was the third event in what is called the “Wiesbaden process” led by Germany, aiming to enhance dialogue with industry in support of resolution 1540 (2004). The conference provided an excellent platform for the sharing of effective practice among diverse sectors of industry, including nuclear, chemical and biological security as well as transport and export control.

Facilitating matchmaking between assistance requests and offers remains a priority for the Committee. Improving the effectiveness of its matchmaking role will be one of the key areas that the Committee will be focusing on in preparing for the 2016 Comprehensive Review.

As of today, a total of 83 Member States and 13 international organisations have notified their Points of Contact. The Committee will continue its efforts to encourage more nominations of Points of Contact and to energize their role. In addition, we also plan to develop a broader e-mail contact list including not only the Points of Contact but also the civil society such as industry, academia and the media. We plan to regularly update these contacts on the Committee’s activities through quarterly newsletters.

Looking ahead, the 1540 Committee must begin its work on the Comprehensive Review of Implementation as called for in resolution 1977 (2011). We will shortly start developing a plan for the conduct of the review, which will be included in the Committee's 14th Programme of Work to be submitted to the Security Council by 31 January 2015.

Much of the work I have outlined would not have been possible without the financial support through contributions to the UN Trust Fund, such as those by Andorra, the European Union, Kazakhstan, Norway and the United States, and more recently by the Republic of Korea. These contributions are vital to the effort to enhance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

I would like to conclude by reiterating the Committee's commitment to seeking the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). As this will be my last briefing to the Security Council as Chair of the 1540 Committee, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Council members, the Group of Experts and members of the Secretariat for all their wonderful support during the two years of my country's chairmanship of the Committee.

I thank you. End.