

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KIM SOOK, CHAIR OF THE 1540 COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004), DELIVERED BY MS. SOLEDAD URRUELA ARENALES FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND COORDINATOR OF THE 1540 COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION, AT THE MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

29 JULY 2013, ST GEORGE'S, GRENADA

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Business,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

On behalf of Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the 1540 Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), I have the honour to deliver the following message on the occasion of the 1540 Committee visit to Grenada.

QUOTE

"I would like to thank the Government of Grenada for the invitation to the 1540 Committee and its group of experts to undertake a collaborative visit with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

This invitation is another clear signal by the Government of Grenada of its commitment to the instruments that promote international peace and security and to multilateralism and the work of the United Nations in general terms. Grenada's commitment to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including through undertaking initiatives through sub-regional organizations such as CARICOM, is recognised and welcomed.

This visit by the 1540 Committee and its group of experts is the second visit undertaken in the Caribbean Community, and follows the constructive and successful visit undertaken earlier this year to Trinidad and Tobago. The Member States of CARICOM are providing valuable examples of effective practices on how to forge closer regional cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1540 in 2004, the UN Security Council addressed the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in, or use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. As terrorists and proliferators do not respect borders, the global non-proliferation system is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. They will exploit such weak points in pursuit of their nefarious objectives. Recent events in several parts of the world provide a clear reminder that non-State actors, including terrorists and criminals, are trying to get access to weapons of mass destruction, or their components. Should States fail in their non-proliferation efforts and in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors could bear tragic consequences.

Resolution 1540 (2004) sets out the role of UN Member States in preventing the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. In particular, States are required to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective national laws and establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of these weapons to non-State actors. Such measures encompass not only accountability and physical protection but also border controls, export, and transshipment controls over equipment, materials and technology that could be used for weapons of mass destruction purposes, as well as critical financial aspects.

These obligations cover a broad range of issues, which impact across different governmental departments. Therefore, their full and effective implementation will require coordinated actions at different levels, with the participation of all relevant national stakeholders including industry and the private sector where appropriate. The implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a continuous task that requires sustained efforts.

In this context, and of particular relevance to the CARICOM Member States as Small Island Developing States, is your dependence on ocean freight and international shipping that facilitates your commercial activities, including tourism.

In terms of resolution 1540 (2004), States have specific obligations to control transit, transshipment trade, as well as on services that support such trade. Implementation of such controls and the fostering of cooperative action consistent with international law, can contribute to your dedicated efforts to strengthen maritime security for the benefit of all.

The work of the 1540 Committee, in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), is guided by the principles of transparency, equal treatment, cooperation and consistency. The mandate of this Committee has been extended to 2021 following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011).

The Committee recognises that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a global challenge that requires cooperation among States and across regions. Therefore, the Committee, in implementing its mandate, serves as a clearinghouse to facilitate matchmaking between requests and offers of assistance for capacity building. The Committee also serves as a focal point to share effective practices and promote cooperation with and among international, regional, and sub-regional organizations. We hope this collaborative visit will foster specific assistance and information sharing activities of interest to Grenada.

As a confidence building measure, it is important that States inform the Committee on measures taken to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, thereby contributing to international peace and security. We welcome Grenada's initiative in having already presented a report on its efforts. Preventing non-State actors from having access to weapons of mass destruction and their related materials requires constant efforts. We hope that this visit will allow the members of the 1540 Committee delegation to hear directly from the Government of Grenada on further measures taken or envisaged to be taken.

I also hope that through such exchange of information, we will be able to identify areas of assistance that would address other relevant concerns and facilitate implementation of other 1540-related multilateral treaty obligations. An important contribution would thereby also be made to create an environment that would more effectively support economic development.

I am convinced that through visits to States at their invitation, the Committee will forge a partnership to engage in collaborative efforts to advance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through the sharing of experiences, identification of areas of assistance and fostering closer regional and international cooperation.

The Committee is committed to provide support as identified by Grenada, and the presence of the Committee members and its group of experts is testimony to this commitment. I wish you a constructive meeting during the next three days, and look forward to receiving a report of the outcome of the visit, which would enable the Committee to further strengthen its relations with Grenada.”

UNQUOTE

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Business,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

As the delegation representing the 1540 Committee, my esteemed colleague Mr. Khalil Hashmi and myself look forward to our deliberations over the next three days and pledge our commitment to work with the Government of Grenada to advance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We encourage you also to make the best use of the presence of Mr. Bennie Lombard and Mr. Enrique Ochoa, 1540 Committee experts, who are eager to share their expertise and insights on the implementation of the resolution.

I thank you.