

**1540 COMMITTEE CHAIR STATEMENT AT THE VISIT TO
CHINA
23 OCTOBER 2014**

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. LI Yang, Deputy Director General of the Arms Control and Disarmament and the Government of China for having invited the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the visit to China.

This visit is significant as it comes in the 10th anniversary year of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004). As the Permanent Representative of China to the UN stressed in his statement at the Security Council open debate on 7 May this year, “efforts should be intensified to promote full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).”

By unanimously adopting resolution 1540 in 2004, the Security Council addressed the threat posed to international peace and security by the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-State actors, particularly terrorist groups.

There is no doubt that the proliferation of these weapons could have catastrophic global humanitarian, economic and political

consequences. As these non-State actors do not respect borders, all elements of the global non-proliferation system must be constantly reinforced.

To facilitate the implementation of the resolution, the Committee has been actively engaging in dialogue with States, including through visits to States at their invitation.

This visit by the 1540 Committee and its group of experts is the twelfth undertaken so far. It follows the constructive and successful visits to Albania, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Grenada, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Congo, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. The Committee has also been invited to visit the United Kingdom next month.

The 1540 Committee appreciates China's commitment, efforts and contributions to promote international non-proliferation, including through active participation in international and regional non-proliferation cooperation activities. China has an excellent record of resolution 1540 implementation, which is demonstrated by the reports that China has submitted to the 1540 Committee. China has also been making substantial contributions through its active participation in the 1540 Committee's work.

An important part of resolution 1540 (2004) is the enforcement of rules and regulations at the national level to ensure stringent accounting, physical security and border and export controls. This is of special significance with regard to nuclear materials. China's commitment to nuclear security is manifested through its participation in the Nuclear Security Summits.

The nuclear security training that the State Nuclear Technology Centre will provide, once it is fully operational, will be a very important contribution in this area. It will not only promote China's national capacity building efforts, but also assist other States in the region to benefit from China's expertise and experience in nuclear security.

Pursuing a regional approach of cooperation and exchanges is vital to promoting the goals and objectives of resolution 1540 (2004). A robust implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is all the more crucial in this region, where the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains high.

In this regard, it is hoped that China will, where possible and appropriate, respond to the assistance requests made by the Member States, particularly its regional partners, for full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

This visit to China will help the Committee gain first-hand knowledge of China's non-proliferation policy, legislative and regulatory framework and enforcement measures by the various stakeholders to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

In today's meeting, the ministries and agencies directly involved in the implementation of resolution 1540 will have a good opportunity to share their perspectives. This will greatly enhance the Committee's understanding of how the resolution is being implemented in this country. At the same time, we hope that this meeting will help the relevant ministries and agencies of the Chinese government further promote their understanding of the obligations under resolution 1540 and the 1540 Committee's activities.

Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee to interact with civil society and the private sector for the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Tomorrow's session with academia and representatives of industry should help us understand their perspectives, and obtain valuable information on their contributions to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In closing, I once again extend my gratitude for inviting the Committee for the visit. I look forward to a productive and rewarding exchange of views during the next two days.

Thank you.