

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PAIK JI-AH
VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM
7 NOVEMBER 2014

To begin, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for the invitation to the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to undertake this visit.

The visit is significant as it occurs in the 10th anniversary year of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004). Of particular note is the continuing importance and relevance of Resolution 1540 (2004). Through its Presidential Statement adopted at the May 7 Security Council Open Debate to mark the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540, the Security Council reaffirmed “the necessity to prevent non-State actors access to, or assistance and financing for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials and their means of delivery”. In this debate more than 60 countries from all regions of the world expressed their commitment to the implementation of the resolution. These expressions of support are important to the maintenance of the momentum towards full implementation of the resolution by 2021, when the current mandate for the 1540 Committee is due to end.

To facilitate the implementation of the resolution, the Committee assigns particular importance to direct interaction with States to achieve effective implementation of the resolution. A key element in this action is visits to States at their invitation. They are a practical demonstration of a State’s commitment to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

This visit by the 1540 Committee and its group of experts is the thirteenth undertaken so far, and the third to a Permanent Member of the Security Council. It follows constructive and successful visits to Albania, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Grenada, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Congo, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

The 1540 Committee appreciates the United Kingdom's commitment and contributions to the global effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including through active participation in international and regional non-proliferation cooperation activities. This is demonstrated by the comprehensive reports that the United Kingdom has submitted to the 1540 Committee. Particularly welcome is the submission to the Committee of the United Kingdom's National Implementation Action Plan in December last year.

The United Kingdom has also made important contributions to the 1540 Committee's work, including by its active participation as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Mr. Terence Taylor has also been doing a fantastic job as Coordinator of the 1540 Group of Experts, whose activities have been vital in supporting the work of the 1540 Committee.

One of the challenges to full implementation of the resolution is the need for capacity building in many States. In this regard, I am glad to acknowledge the United Kingdom's readiness to respond to requests for assistance – particularly in the area of border and export controls. Assistance is an important aspect of the Committee's work. In recent years, the Committee has been actively seeking to improve its role of matching assistance requests to potential providers. Any ideas you may have for making the system work better would be most welcome.

Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) encourage the 1540 Committee to interact with civil society and the private sector for the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, I particularly welcomed the opportunity to participate in the seminars on 5 and 6 November organised by King's College in cooperation with Chatham House. As we approach the start of the comprehensive review of the resolution, these exchanges were particularly valuable. I hope that these discussions will be only the beginning of a dialogue that will continue and help the Committee during consideration of developing its strategy for the years to 2021.

In closing, I once again extend my gratitude for inviting the Committee for this visit and for the excellent arrangements. I look forward to a productive and rewarding exchange of views and site visit.

Thank you for your attention.