

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE 1540 COMMITTEE
AMBASSADOR OH JOON
1540 IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
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Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to participate in this workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 which follows up the Pretoria Workshop held a year ago.

It is a privilege to meet you in my capacity as Chair of the 1540 Committee, as we are gathered here to discuss ways to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors.

At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Baso Sangqu, former Chair of the 1540 Committee, for his untiring efforts for effective and universal implementation of resolution 1540.

My gratitude also goes to the Commissioner for Peace and Security and his Department for all the hard work in preparing for this workshop, and for welcoming us in this beautiful city of Addis Ababa.

During the two days of discussions, we look forward to active sharing of national experiences as well as exploring the role of sub-regional organisations and relevant regional instruments in facilitating 1540 implementation in Africa. Practical experiences of all participants here will be crucial to assist others in meeting their goals under the resolution.

Recent developments in the 1540 Committee

There have been a number of important recent developments that have an impact on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In February this year, a note from the 1540 Committee encouraged States to provide updated information on their implementation of the resolution, and called on those that have not yet submitted a national report to do so. States were also advised to notify their points of contact and to share relevant effective practices.

The value of Member States' inputs cannot be overemphasized. They serve as the basis upon which the Committee can conduct dialogue with States on their implementation of the resolution, including on facilitating assistance.

As the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 approaches next year, it is heartening to note that 171 States have reported to the Committee on their implementation. However, there are still 22 States that have yet to submit initial reports.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those States, including the remaining 18 States in Africa, to provide the Committee with information on the steps they have taken, or intend to take, to implement this resolution. I assure you that the Committee and its experts stand ready to provide them with any assistance as necessary.

Recently, there was a development in 1540 reporting when the Security Council adopted resolution 2118 on the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. The resolution, while determining the use of chemical weapons as a threat to international peace and security, decided that Member States should inform the Security Council of any violation of resolution 1540 in order that necessary measures can be taken. This decision adds to the importance

of the efforts directed towards universal and full implementation of resolution 1540.

Country Visits

The Security Council, through resolution 1977 (2011), extended the 1540 Committee's mandate for ten years, recognizing that countering the threat of WMD proliferation by non-State actors is a continuous and long term task. It is a global endeavor that requires sustained cooperation from all stakeholders since global impact of resolution 1540 is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain.

The importance of dialogue between the Committee and Member States was also highlighted through this resolution which stressed direct contact as an effective means of dialogue. The Committee was encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540, including through visits to States at their invitation.

These visits aim to assist States in the review of their implementation, identifying any gaps, areas of improvement and assistance needs. During this year, the Committee visited four States, they were Burkina Faso, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Republic of Korea. They follow successful visits to Madagascar and the Republic of the Congo in the previous year. The Committee will also be visiting the Republic of Moldova, Mozambique and Niger next year.

Progress by African States in implementation of resolution 1540(2004)

Over recent years, African States have taken key initiatives related to preventing terrorists from acquiring WMD and related material.

These initiatives include the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol adopted under the then Organisation of African

Unity (OAU). The African States party to this instrument have committed themselves to strengthen national and regional measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

African States have also established a nuclear-weapon-free zone through the Pelindaba Treaty. There exist synergies between the obligations under the Treaty and those in resolution 1540. These relate not only to the nuclear non-proliferation commitments in the Treaty, but also to other commitments such as nuclear security.

In June and September this year, two regional workshops were held in Senegal and Kenya that raised awareness on the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. I believe good progress was made at these workshops in highlighting the relevance of these instruments to the implementation of resolution 1540.

In addition, a particularly noteworthy development has been the decision by the AU Summit in January. The AU Assembly requested “the (AU) Commission to take the necessary steps, in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and all other stakeholders, to further promote and enhance the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa.”

I am confident that this decision will contribute to strengthening the AU’s cooperation with the 1540 Committee in advancing our common objective of preventing WMD proliferation.

Assistance for African States

Obviously, the obligations derived from resolution 1540 cover a broad range of issues engaging a wide spectrum of national players. Also, its implementation is a continuous and long term task that requires sustained efforts and cooperation at national, sub-regional, regional and international level.

And there are the competing priorities on States' resources and institutional capacity to advance their socio-economic development. Therefore, the 1540 Committee encourages those States that require assistance in meeting its 1540 obligations to come to the Committee. At the same time, those States and international and regional organisations that can provide assistance are also encouraged to inform the Committee of their availability to do so.

The Committee places a high priority on assistance requests, and it serves as a clearinghouse to facilitate matchmaking between requests and offers of assistance for capacity building. At the Pretoria Workshop last year, the participants highlighted the potential linkages between their national development processes and their obligations under resolution 1540. We can do more to leverage these linkages and synergies, and I look forward to more discussion on assistance.

This year alone, assistance was offered to Kyrgyz Republic in legislative and export control areas, while support was provided to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for maintaining its Regional Coordinator position and training of criminal justice officials. The 1540 Committee's group of experts has improved the compilation of assistance requests and offers, enabling a more systematic approach to assistance matchmaking.

Conclusion

Distinguished participants

Let me conclude by recalling that with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004, the Security Council deals directly with possible threats to international peace and security should non-State actors have access to weapons of mass destruction.

The resolution states what measures States need to take to address these threats. However, it is States themselves that decide how these measures are

implemented in accordance with their own legal framework and national practices.

The tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the recent horrendous terrorist attack in Kenya clearly illustrate that criminals and terrorists do not respect borders and will use any means possible to achieve their objectives. Furthermore, the arrest of two individuals in South Africa last month on the alleged illegal possession of uranium was another illustration of the need to remain vigilant.

The Committee is committed to work in close partnership with the AU and African States to respond to this challenge. I wish you all great success in this workshop.

I thank you. /END/