

ARF Confidence Building Measure Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)

Message from the Chair of the Committee Established Pursuant to the UN Security Council; Resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassador Kim Sook Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations New York

Delivered by Mr Michael Aho, as a Member of the Committee

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to the 2nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Confidence Building Measure (CBM) Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) and express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand and the United States' Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program, for hosting and organizing this seminar. I am sure that the next two days will be extremely fruitful as we exchange our views on the important matter of *implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)* in ARF countries. I would also like to recognize the continuing engagement that ARF has shown on non-proliferation issues in general, having expressed the need to collaborate among members to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery more than a decade ago. I also hope that your upcoming Inter-Sessional Meeting in Manila on non-proliferation and disarmament adds to this important discussion.

As you know, UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is a unique and important non-proliferation instrument. It imposes three main obligations upon States: First, an obligation to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery; Second, an obligation to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit and prosecute such activities from non-State actors; and third, an obligation for States to establish domestic controls over materials, equipment and technology which could be used for the design, development, production or use of weapons and mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Realizing the growth from increasing efforts by non-State actors to acquire the weapon of mass destruction, Resolution 1540 (2004) was adopted unanimously by the United

Nation Security Council under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter in April 2004. Since then it has served as a vital non-proliferation tool, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

The IAEA's 2012 Nuclear Security Report referred to 163 incidents reported by States to its Illicit Trafficking Database, of which 19 involved illegal possession of and attempts to sell nuclear material or radioactive sources. The ricin letters in the United States confirmed that the threat of WMD terrorism is not a daydream. Suppose such WMD-related materials were used by the Tsarnaev brothers in Boston? As such, it is only logical that we ensure that the resolution is fully and effectively implemented.

I have the honor of chairing the 1540 Committee, the subsidiary body of the Security Council dedicated to monitoring and facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Chairing such a central non-proliferation body is a challenging but rewarding task in the light of the breadth of the mandate and the volume of work to be done, especially when 1540 resolution would be celebrating the tenth anniversary in 2014. In the past nine years 169 states have submitted their initial reports indicating varying degree of implementation. However, 24 states have yet to submit their initial report. I have approached all states to remind them of their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent related resolutions. We sincerely hope that states will make extra efforts to submit their initial/additional reports to mark 2014 as the year of universal reporting.

I would like to recognize the efforts being made by the ARF countries for comprehensive and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), as well as those efforts of some ARF members in assisting other member countries in implementing their obligations on bilateral and multilateral level. For example, Malaysia's CBRN Consequence Management Exercise in July 2012 in conjunction with Malaysia's Joint Forces Command and the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency helped bring these issues into focus.

I understand that the agenda of the seminar offer you an opportunity to have a better understanding of the requirements of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent related resolutions. It is also an opportunity for us to share information on the status of implementation by Member States and explore the ways to benefit from the excellent efforts being made by international and regional organization in assisting states to

effectively implement resolution 1540 (2004). As many of you already know, all ARF countries would benefit from continuing efforts to strengthen, among its members, export controls, nuclear and maritime security, border control and illicit trafficking measures, proliferation financing, and of course counter-terrorism efforts – all in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004). Given the shared interests and close proximity of many of your members, regional collaboration will prove essential to your collective security and implementation progress. I strongly encourage the ARF to establish a regional coordinator or point of contact to connect itself with the living network of global non-proliferation efforts.

Let me also note that as the premier multilateral security institution in the region with a strong record on non-proliferation issues, there are significant opportunities for ARF to assume leadership for efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asia-Pacific. Although most UN Member States, including ARF participants, have filed initial reports with the 1540 Committee, many lack the institutional capacity to take practical measures supporting implementation of the resolution. The Committee would welcome all ARF participants interest in assistance to make an assistance request via Note Verbale to the Committee to reflect this need for capacity-building in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

I trust that the highly knowledgeable speakers on 1540 – related matters, who will share their views to engage you in active dialogue, will stimulate your thinking. I also hope that the discussions over the next two days would lead to the emergence of new and innovative approaches for full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all members of ARF. I am confident that the outcome can lead to the development of an ARF standard, so to speak, for realizing effective implementation of resolution 1540 in the region and beyond.

Your Excellencies and distinguished participants, I thank you all for travelling long distances and taking time out of your busy schedule to participate and make contributions to making this seminar a success. I look forward to a fruitful outcome of the event in the form of enhanced sharing of information on the implementation of resolution 1540 by all ARF member states with 1540 Committee.

Thank you for your attention.