

**Address by Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi
Chair of the Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council
Resolution 1540 (2004)**

at

**Training Course for 1540 National Points of Contact in the Asia-Pacific
Region**

Qingdao, China

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First of all, on behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the government of China for taking the initiative to host the first training course for resolution 1540 (2004) national Points of Contact. China is leading the way in breaking new ground in the Asia-Pacific region with this course. In effect this will be a pilot course that will guide similar courses in other regions of the world. For example, the government of Chile has offered to host such a course for the Latin American region – it is likely to take place early in 2016.

I would like to begin with a reminder of the proliferation risks we all face. The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 over a decade ago indicates the political convergence on this matter and its seriousness that affects all States both directly and indirectly. The potentially devastating effects of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, and possibly into the hands of terrorists, could have catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences. You are already aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak in various parts of the world. While much of the activity surrounding UN resolutions and treaties on the subject of weapons of mass destruction concern procedures, compliance mechanisms and the like, we

should not lose sight of what we are trying to prevent. Resolution 1540 is a preventive resolution. There are risks that nuclear, chemical or biological weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists. In this context, we should be conscious of the possibility of the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons by non-state actors, especially by terrorists. Given the global nature of the challenge posed by the proliferation of the capabilities and technologies that can be used by non-State actors for this purpose no State is exempt from making every effort to prevent such proliferation from happening. The obligations under resolution 1540 are designed precisely for this purpose.

While you will hear a lot more about this later in the course I feel it is important that I state the essence of the obligations so that you have in your minds, from the start, the broad scope of the binding obligations. States are required to:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities;
- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

A wide range of activities are embraced in implementing these obligations. Among them are export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. Of course, while it is a binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems. Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks. These need to be countered by adaptation of measures in place or by the introduction of new measures. Effective implementation requires our

constant attention. National Points of Contact should play an important role in this regard as members of what the 1540 Committee hopes will be a “living network”. By this we mean not just through connecting with 1540 Committee and its supporting Group of Experts, but also with each other. Resolution 1540 is at heart a collaborative resolution and can only be effective if States collaborate with each other on a bilateral, sub-regional or even a regional basis.

I am glad to tell you that the overwhelming majority of States have demonstrated their commitment to resolution 1540 through reporting to the 1540 Committee on the measures they have taken, or plan to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. It is worthy of note that to date 175 countries have reported on the measures they have taken for the implementation of resolution 1540. This means that ninety per cent of UN Member States have reported. This is a practical indication of commitment to the objectives of the resolution and enables the 1540 Committee to engage in dialogue with States in order to enhance implementation.

While reporting is very important, what really matters is the effectiveness of the practical steps taken at the national level to implement the resolution. One helpful step in this regard is to develop voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP). In this process, if it is to work, all the key national stakeholders that need to be involved in 1540 implementation have to be engaged. This helps to close any gaps and vulnerabilities in legislation, regulations and controls. If it corresponds to national regulations and practices 1540 National Points of Contact could have a role in their own countries in ensuring all those government departments and agencies that have responsibilities with regard to implementing the obligations under resolution 1540 are engaged. Not only this, but also that the appropriate parts of civil society and parliamentarians, as called for in the resolution, are also engaged.

As I mentioned earlier the 1540 Committee is very keen to enhance the role of 1540 national Points of Contact. The Committee is seeking ways to build on their potential to play an important part in maintaining and improving 1540 implementation.

Resolution 1540 acknowledges that some States might need assistance in effectively implementing their obligations. National Points of Contact could play an important role in those countries that might need support in this regard. They could assist in making certain that the requests are properly articulated by the appropriate agencies – seeking advice as needed from the Committee and the Group of Experts. The Committee is sparing no efforts in making the 1540 assistance system more effective. You will hear more about this during the course

I would like to turn now to the all-important Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540. In accordance with Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided on two reviews of the status of implementation of the resolution – one five years after the adoption of the resolution and a second prior to expiry of the 1540 Committee’s mandate in 2021. This Review should be both retrospective and forward-looking. It should draw on an analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since the 2009 Review, with the aim of improving the implementation of the resolution by Member States, by identifying and recommending specific, practical and appropriate actions to this end, and to analyse the operation of the Committee in the conduct of its tasks and recommend any changes considered necessary.

The Committee has agreed the modalities for the Review that follows four key strands of work. They are:

- Using currently available data from reports by States, and publicly available official information, the Committee will make an analysis of the status of implementation of the resolution including identifying the key trends in implementation since the 2009 Review. Based on this analysis, it should identify shortcomings in the current system of data collection, storage, retrieval and presentation, including in reporting by States and sharing of effective practices. An important element in this theme is to draw on the experience with direct interactions with States and thereby identify appropriate ways to intensify and promote these interactions.
- Drawing on the experience in operating the 1540 assistance mechanism in the course of the Review, as I mentioned earlier, we should analyse the Committee's role in assistance and identify improvements to bring about its prompt delivery. The Committee is already putting into effect improvements to the approach to facilitating assistance – in particular by using a regional approach.
- With regard to cooperation with international organisations, in the course of the Review we believe that we should seek improved ways of enhancing the collaboration of the Committee with directly related international organisations – such as those represented here. With respect to regional organisations, I think that we should try to identify better methods to engage their support for building networks of 1540 Points of Contact. In the Asia-Pacific region this is a particular challenge given its geographic size and variety of existing organisations. Your ideas on how to do this would be most welcome.
- Last, but by no means least, the Review should examine the Committee's outreach to States, parliamentarians and civil society including academia, industry and professional associations. In this regard, I believe that we need to seek to do this through publications and electronic means and, as appropriate, the use of social media and endeavour to build a wider 1540

network including, in an appropriate way, civil society. This is a task that should form part of a 1540 Point of Contact's national responsibilities.

The Committee is seeking opportunities to gain the views of Member States in the course of the process. As with most aspects of resolution 1540 its implementation is very much a collaborative effort – this characteristic will be an important feature of the Comprehensive Review. Your active participation as 1540 national Points of Contact is much needed. Naturally you should do this through your own governments – as appropriate to your individual circumstances, you could play an important role nationally.

The aim of the course on which you are about to embark is to equip you to be an effective 1540 Point of Contact within your own country and to be a direct link to the 1540 Committee and to other 1540 Points of Contact in your region and beyond. You will learn more in detail about the obligations on States deriving from the resolution and you will obtain a better understanding of how your government can implement these obligations effectively. Conditions vary in all your countries – there is not a “one-size fits all” solution to effective implementation. However, there is no doubt that there is much to learn through the sharing of experiences. This is very much what we hope will take place during this course that is intended to be interactive in nature.

I very much hope that you will take advantage of the expertise available to you from the international organisations taking part and from the participating members of the 1540 Group of Experts that support the Committee.

While during this course you will be hearing a lot from those briefing you I very much hope that we will get feedback from you on how you can fulfil your responsibilities more effectively – and what help you might need in this regard.

I must pay tribute to the international organisations that have sent representatives to help run this course. Your expertise is essential to the successful conduct of the course.

Thanks are also due to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for their support in making this course possible along with their colleagues based here in China from the office of the UN Development Programme.

Finally, I should like to acknowledge those that have provided funding support for this activity – namely the governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States along with the European Union.

Thank you for your attention.

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