

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE 1540 COMMITTEE, AMBASSADOR OH JOON, AT THE SIDE
EVENT ON “CBRN NATIONAL ACTION PLANS: MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY”

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I am honoured to participate in this side event on the role of CBRN national action plans in meeting the challenges of international security, organised by the Permanent Mission of Georgia in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Kaha Imnadze, for inviting me to share with you some views on how actions to deal with CBRN risks of a criminal, accidental or natural origin complement the obligations contained in resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by non-state actors.

Recent actions by non-state actors include reported criminal cases involving nuclear and radiological material in different regions of the world. We recall also those cases of individuals being prosecuted for the criminal use of toxins as well as reports of the loss or misplacement by certain laboratories of dangerous pathogens. These incidents re-emphasize the importance of the full implementation of the resolution.

In his special message on 28 April 2014, marking the 10th anniversary of the unanimous adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed “to all States and other key actors to intensify their efforts to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as the safety and security of everyone is at stake.”

We, therefore, need to remain vigilant in our common efforts to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors. Countering this threat is a long-term and continuing task.

Allow me to briefly recall the core obligations of resolution 1540 (2004), which require States 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, and;

Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

The resolution's obligations contain measures States must implement that impact at least on their legal framework, enforcement capacities, border management, export controls, and accounting, control and securing of related materials.

To facilitate the implementation of the resolution, the 1540 Committee has been mandated to engage in dialogue with States, including through visits to States at their invitation. Furthermore, the UNSC resolution 1977 has also encouraged States to consider developing voluntary national implementation action plans. Such voluntary 1540 action plans are drafted by States mapping out their priorities for implementing the provisions of the resolution. To date, 13 States have submitted such plans to the Committee.

Within the broader context of the recognition by the resolution that States may require assistance in seeking the full implementation of the resolution, the Committee and its Group of Experts have been assisting States in the drafting of their voluntary national implementation action plans.

While voluntary 1540 National Implementation Action Plans focus mainly on the prevention aspect of the proliferation on WMD and related materials, there is complementarity with the national action plans of the European Union's CBRN Centres of Excellence, which focus on emergencies and national disaster management.

As you may know, resolution 1540 (2004) emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a

global response to the threat that non-state actors, including terrorists, may acquire, develop, traffic in or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Consequently, the 1540 Committee values the development of cooperative arrangements with regional and international organizations such as OSCE, AU, CARICOM, OAS, IAEA, OPCW, WCO, INTERPOL, and others, that play a complementary role in the implementation process of relevance to the resolution, in accordance with their respective mandates.

This is also emphasized in relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Through these resolutions, the Council encouraged the Committee to engage actively with those organizations to promote the sharing of experience and lessons learned and to exchange information on the availability of programmes, including those involving assistance, which might facilitate the implementation of the resolution.

I look forward to the discussions during this event, and stand ready to answer any 1540 related questions you may have.

I thank you.