

**A Dialogue Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation
of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

A Message from

Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi

Chair of the Security Committee Established Pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004)

4 May 2016

Delivered by José Javier Gutiérrez Blanco-Navarrete, Mission of Spain to the United Nations,

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today. The reason is that today I have to brief the Security Council on the very same subject. I hope that I can count on your understanding

I can say with confidence that the UN Security Council's 1540 Committee recognises the invaluable contribution that the OSCE makes to the cause of non-proliferation and, in particular, to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540. In its 2016 Programme of Work, as in previous years, the Committee makes clear that the support of regional organisations is fundamental to the effective implementation of the resolution worldwide. As I said to this Forum last year the OSCE has played an exemplary role in this regard.

The outstanding work that has been conducted by the staff of the Conflict Prevention Centre in supporting national round tables and sub-regional meetings has been an important contribution to enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540. This has been particularly true in two important areas:

- First, in the assistance given in the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans that has led to practical results;
- Second, in developing and animating national 1540 Points of Contact.

I look forward to the introduction in the OSCE region of a training course for national 1540 Points of Contact. I know that there are plans afoot to do this. This would reinforce the 'living network' of Points of Contact that the OSCE has already created.

I spoke to this Forum in April last year of the proliferation risks we face. However, as you are all aware the evolution in terrorism since then, and the penchant for extreme violence among the terrorist groups, has sadly increased the risk of the use by non-State actors of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The use of these weapons can be prevented only by

constant vigilance by Member States in preventing non-State actors from misusing the available technologies, materials and delivery means and wittingly, or unwittingly, helping terrorists to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction. I am not talking of theoretical acts. The use of chemical weapons in the Middle East is a case in point. Authoritative reports indicate that ISIL has a chemical weapons programme and is developing improvised devices drawing on available technology and materials. The need to counter constantly the evolving nature of terrorism is further complicated by the rapid advances in science, technology and commerce. While they bring important humanitarian and economic benefits, they pose risks of misuse that Member States must address in meeting their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004).

It is against this dynamic background that the 1540 Committee is undertaking its Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This in itself is a challenge. The Committee is part way through its deliberations and will be conducting more consultations with Member States, international and regional organisation and appropriate sectors in civil society, in particular industry and academia.

Among the factors and issues that so far we find important to consider include:

- Since 2010 there has been steady increase in the measures to implement resolution 1540. Due to the varying capacities of States it is clear that full implementation of the resolution is a long-term task that will require continuous attention at national, regional and international levels along with sustained and intensified support from the Committee;
- Recognition of the valuable role that regional “champions” of 1540 can play in promoting and facilitating effective implementation;
- To advance effective implementation we need to further strengthen the Committee’s direct interaction with States with a focus on those States that clearly need support;
- We also need to focus on issues, such as chemical and biological security, where implementation merits more attention.
- The increase in the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans has proved to be important in effectively engaging States’ national 1540 stakeholders and improving their internal co-ordination. As I mentioned earlier this is matter where the OSCE has played an important role;

The Committee is well aware that it needs to improve its assistance mechanism. What is required is a process to refine requests, as needed, so that their technical soundness is enhanced and it is clear how they fit into States' programmes of work; and a prompt and effective response to requests as they come in. In its Programme of Work the Committee decided to try a regional approach. This approach was carried out successfully in Africa in April with the support of the African Union in Addis Ababa.

From the Review so far it is clear the importance of capacity building, for those States that need it, should not be under-estimated. The Committee should, it can be argued, be in a position to play more than the matchmaking role than it has at present – this has both organisational and financial implications. It requires an integrated support structure for the Committee and dedicated funding support.

Key partners in the delivery of assistance are relevant international and regional organisations. In the course of the Committee's Comprehensive Review we are engaging them collectively and individually. In March we brought together those international organisations with representation in New York to brief them on the Review and called for inputs from them. Also at an informal Committee meeting to be held next week in Madrid we have invited representatives from international and regional organisations to join our deliberations. I am glad to know that Ambassador Marcel Peško, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, will be participating. An input from the OSCE is important as I know such an input would draw on valuable and substantial experience and lessons learned.

It was already apparent, but the Comprehensive Review process has highlighted that international instruments and organisations in the areas of nuclear, chemical, and biological controls have a sharply different character. As a consequence, support to Member States from international organisations in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) ranges, for example, from long-standing IAEA programmes of assistance in the areas of nuclear security and accounting and control of nuclear material; assistance from OPCW with respect to chemical controls; to a lack of a comparable mechanism in the biological area. The 1540 Committee will be giving careful consideration to what means might be available to narrow this gap.

Turning to outreach, despite the constraints on the Committee arising from its mandate -- visits to States “by invitation only” - there have been some remarkable successes. In particular visits to States and national roundtables have proved successful in promoting the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans in the OSCE region and around the world. An innovation in our outreach was a meeting with 70 African parliamentarians organised in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and hosted by the Cote d’Ivoire in Abidjan that was dedicated solely to the implementation of resolution 1540. Direct interactions between the Committee and its Group of Experts with States’ officials and parliamentarians, as appropriate, engaged in national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is constructive.

Between 2010 and 2015, the data shows that there was a positive correlation between States’ implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and their participation in 1540 events. Participation in events should be encouraged, but better results would be obtained if events were planned and organised to meet States’ specific needs, especially in a regional context. This indicates that the Committee needs to continue to look for innovative ways to enhance its direct interaction with States – not only that - but to make sure that the Committee’s mandate does not inhibit it from directing its energies and limited resources to those regions and States where it would be most constructive and cost-effective. This will merit careful discussion in the 1540 Committee.

With regard to civil society we have made significant strides forward. Continued outreach and engagement with civil society remains important. It not only promotes transparency but also allows the Committee to take advantage of a pool of valuable resources that lie in the various sectors. For example as part of its Programme of Work in February the Committee held an informal meeting with academic experts to discuss advances in science and technology relevant to 1540 implementation. This event was in many ways an eye-opener - so much has changed since the adoption of the resolution in 2004 that directly affects the kinds of control measures States might need to put in place to meet their obligations under the resolution effectively. Of course, change continues, and the Committee and States must be ready to adapt accordingly.

As an integral part of the Review, a consultation was held with academics from around the world sponsored by the United Nations University (UNU) on 6 and 7 April¹. This event not only covered ideas from the academic community on how to enhance implementation and how to encourage academic research on resolution 1540 implementation, but also included a discussion of academia's own responsibilities for implementation, particularly in the area of the physical sciences.

Industry is a key partner to governments in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I am glad to say that with innovative and practical support from Germany the engagement with industry continues and will feature in the Comprehensive Review open consultation meeting scheduled for 20 to 22 June in New York. This is a consultation that will engage all Member States, international and regional organisations and selected representatives from civil society. This will be an opportunity for OSCE Participating States, individually and collectively to contribute ideas drawn from experience on how to enhance implementation of the resolution.

I will end where I began – the evolving nature of terrorism affects all Member States directly and indirectly. Non-State actors are already engaged in planning and acquiring technologies and materials for weapons of mass destruction. Extreme violence is their stock-in-trade. Vigilance by all is essential. The non-proliferation regime is only as strong as its weakest link. It requires continuous attention by all States due to the rapidly evolving nature of the modus operandi of the terrorists and their supporters – as well as the rapid advances in all aspects of science, technology and international commerce.

I look forward to the continuing close cooperation with the OSCE in our mutual efforts, in the rapidly evolving risk environment to help prevent what would be a humanitarian, economic and political catastrophe if, through proliferation to non-State actors, a weapon of mass destruction was delivered by terrorists that inflicted large scale casualties and damage. Thank you for your attention.

END

¹ A report on the event will be published by UNU in mid-May