

**Message from Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540, to the Workshop on “Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Innovative Approaches to Capacity Building and Assistance”**

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I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Poland for taking the initiative to host this event, and to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA) and the Stimson Center for assisting in the organization and sponsorship of this workshop. Unfortunately the 1540 Committee and its experts are unable to attend this meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

The task of this workshop is to provide an update on the current status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) including provisions of resolution 1977 (2011) with a focus on innovative approaches to capacity building and assistance. We welcome this discussion and will outline ways and means to enhance this implementation and try to identify effective practices and experiences that have helped us to meet the existing challenges.

For better understanding of the tasks for the future let me introduce the results of the work of the Committee and new perspectives for our activity deriving from the UN Security Council resolution 1977. Adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 24 April 2011, this resolution extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for ten years enhancing the Committee’s efforts to support States in their implementation of the resolution on the basis of long term perspective. Resolution 1977 reaffirmed the need for all States to comply fully with their obligations under 1540 process and fulfill their commitments on non-proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as their means of delivery by non-State actors, and acknowledged that continuous

efforts at the national, regional and international levels are still required. In this regard the resolution, *inter alia*, mandates the Committee to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance its co-operation with relevant organizations and entities.

In recent years more States have taken measures to implement the resolution. By now more than 140 States have adopted legislative measures to prohibit the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, compared to 65 in 2006. From the enforcement side the progress is also visible. During last two-three years a number of States have voluntarily announced their intent to develop their national action plans on implementation of the resolution and some of them have already submitted these plans or their drafts to the Committee. These inputs reveal that States concentrate on concrete measures to strengthen their border and export controls, physical protection of related materials and enhanced capacity building.

This focus on practical work resulted in a more active role of the Committee's engagement in dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to States at their invitation. In this regard, let me note that less than a year ago, in September 2011 there was the first country visit to the United States. Now nearly a dozen of country visits or country-specific activities have been conducted or planned in the near future.

All these positive events, however, cannot conceal the fact that a lot is to be done. First of all, there is a challenge of non-submission by countries of their initial reports or submission of insufficient information on implementation of the resolution to the Committee. There are several reasons that can explain this situation.

Due to the complexity of WMD issue, not all States can develop the comprehensive approach towards the resolution taking into account the complexities and technicalities of international non-proliferation treaties and conventions and specificity of the resolution focused on non-States actors'

aspect. In this regard the task of the Committee and its experts is to alleviate this problem by developing methods of dialogue and outreach to facilitate the better understanding of the resolution and its requirements.

As for the priorities issue, many States are faced by other pressing issues, such as Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) trafficking, socio-economic development and crime prevention. In this case our efforts are channeled towards explaining that the requirements of the resolution are mandatory and applicable to all States. They constitute an integral part of a broader security issue and often are complimentary to efforts aimed at enhancing border and export controls, fighting money laundering and terrorism prevention. No State is safe from the danger of non-State actors seeking to exploit its territory for malicious purposes.

However, for many States the challenges on the way to implementation of the resolution look formidable because they lack capacity to adopt all the measures required. In this connection, resolution 1540 recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing its provisions while other States may be in a position to offer assistance in response to concrete requests. From this perspective the Committee continues to serve as a clearing house for matching requests for and offers of assistance to facilitate implementation of the resolution. The 1540 Committee takes efforts to improve and accelerate its work on assistance issue. For example, we have improved the processes for follow-up, including regular information circulation on actions taken by states that offer assistance.

In October 2010 the Committee adopted revised procedures to rationalize, improve and accelerate responses to assistance requests and facilitate match-making. Under the new procedures, a request for assistance is now relayed by the secretariat of the Committee to potential assistance providers within one week after the request was received. The experts start conducting match-making dialogue to contact recipients and providers of assistance. Though the 1540 Committee itself does not provide assistance it helps States to prepare their applications for assistance including formal requests.

There is always a room for improvement. We try to find innovative approach by identifying and analyzing assistance needs in a most effective way with a view to facilitate potential support from assistance provider's side. We hope that country visits and country specific activities prove to be good facilitators moving this process ahead. During these visits the Committee members and experts involved in intensive dialogue with local authorities and agencies can better understand the needs for assistance.

Co-operation on all matters with different international, regional and sub-regional organizations (IROs) is one of the pillars the work of the Committee is based on. The support of professional organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) is crucial for the process of implementation of the resolution from the point of view of expertise, developing best practices and information sharing. Since 2008 (by the end of last year) these organizations have introduced at least 23 new standards, codes, guidelines or similar practices of relevance to resolution 1540.

As for international, regional and sub-regional organizations, they also take an active part in the process of implementation of the resolution supporting the work of the Committee. Resolution 1977 encourages these organizations to enhance co-operation and information sharing on all issues related to the resolution. The political support of international, regional and sub-regional organizations is also of importance. By bringing to the attention of their member-States the importance of the resolution they can assist in monitoring the process of implementation and urge their member-States to take necessary steps in this direction. It is noteworthy that they can also assist those States that need help in implementation of the resolution.

In recent years some of these organizations started to establish a point of contact or a co-ordinator on implementation of the resolution. The designation of a co-ordinator for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and a regional

facilitator for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) proved to be important and timely measures that enhanced the work of the Committee in these regions. The task is to continue expanding our co-operation with these and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations trying to find new forms and methods of interaction mapping activities for the future.

Turning to the issue of transparency and outreach, it is important to stress that openness in the work of the Committee is one of the prerequisites of the success in its work. Two things are notable in this regard. By now nearly 180 matrices previously approved by the Committee have been posted on its website together with information notes on the outreach activities conducted by the members of the Committee and the experts. Also a new, more reader friendly design of the website has been developed.

The 1540 Committee continues to cooperate with 1267/1989 and 1373 Committees of the Security Council and the Counter Terrorist Task Implementation Force (CTITF) within their relevant mandates, including through the organization of joint briefings and mutual participation in outreach events.

Last year the 1540 Committee, with the support of its experts, has increased considerably its outreach activities aimed at facilitating States' implementation of resolution 1540 in different regions of the world. The new trend in these activities is their focus on country visits and country specific missions. This approach proved to be an effective tool which allowed concentrate more effectively on States' needs including assistance needs and the voluntary development of national action plans on implementation of the resolution. Closer contacts with States' authorities result in a better understanding of national specificities and problems.

In conclusion, I would like to express my hope that consistent and concerted efforts by the international community, including those by our Committee would contribute to the success of our mutual work aimed at preventing non-

State actors from gaining access to chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or their delivery systems.