

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BASO SANGQU CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) AT THE SEMINAR OF THE ANDEAN REGION STATES ON RESOLUTION 1540

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Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Government of Colombia for hosting this event and to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) the Organizations of American States and the Stimson Center for assisting in the organization and sponsorship this important workshop focus on the Andean Community countries. I also thank the organizers for the opportunity to make a presentation to you in my role as Chairman of the 1540 Committee.

This is an occasion to introduce the recent work and new perspective of the 1540 Committee on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution 1977 (2011). Resolution 1977 was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 20 April 2011, extending the mandate of the 1540 committee until 25 April 2021. . Resolution 1977 reaffirms the requirements of resolution 1540, which calls on all States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to address the proliferation threat posed by non-State actors The Security Council recognized also that full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States, including the adoption of national laws and enforcement measures, is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Taking a long-term outlook, however, does not diminish the urgency that the Committee perceives in the need for States to take appropriate effective measures to combat the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State

actors. It also understands that terrorists, criminal organizations and other non-State actors will adapt their strategies and tactics to evade legal and enforcement efforts to prohibit or control activities as required under resolution 1540 (2004). Constant vigilance and flexibility by States will be required to meet to face emerging proliferation threats or new tactics by non-State actors.

Resolution 1977 (2011) reaffirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. It is also interesting to note that this resolution reaffirmed the need for all Member States to comply fully with their obligations and fulfil their commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Assistance Process

Resolution 1540 recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing their provisions while others may be in a position to offer assistance in reply to specific requests. The Committee recognises the the need of enhanced assistance and collaboration among States, between the 1540 Committee and States, and between the 1540 Committee and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations in assisting States to implement resolution 1540 (2004),

Several states in the region have made such requests for assistance (as have two sub-regional organizations) or offered assistance. Some of these projects are well underway.

The 1540 Committee continues its efforts to improve and accelerate its work on assistance. In addition to processes for authenticating and sharing information on a request, the Committee has improved the processes for follow-up, including regular information on actions by those offering assistance. In this regard, the 1540 Committee, with the support of its experts,

facilitates technical assistance in particular by engaging in matching requests and offers of assistance.

In October 2010, the 1540 Committee adopted revised procedures to rationalize, improve and accelerate responses to assistance requests and facilitate match-making. Under these new procedures, a request for assistance is now relayed by the Secretariat of the Committee to potential providers of assistance within one week after the request was received by the Committee, while experts conduct “match-making” dialogues, on advice of the requesting State, with potential assistance partners.

In general, the 1540 Committee promotes implementation of the resolution by dialogue and cooperation with States, consistent with their laws and with international law, and by cooperation with intergovernmental bodies to achieve common objectives. Assistance can be made available to implement the resolution by the tools mentioned in resolution 1977 (2011). These tools include visits to States at their invitations, the assistance template and voluntary national actions plans.

It is important to stress that the 1540 Committee itself does not provide assistance, although upon request it will help States prepare their submissions to the 1540 Committee, including formal requests for assistance. In its clearinghouse role, the 1540 Committee shares information from which assistance partnerships and co-operation projects can be developed to enhance implementation.

Assistance and cooperation with international and regional organizations

Cooperation on all matters, including assistance with different international organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations (IROs) is also a pillar of the work of the 1540 Committee. It maintains interactions of various natures with more than 40 IROs as well as States in that regard. Relevant intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations can facilitate

States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). These organizations provide forums and opportunities to share experience and lessons learned.

International organizations, in accordance with their mandates, typically provide guidelines and standards, and technical assistance programmes that States can implement in accordance with their national circumstances, while regional organizations play a politically supportive role by bringing to the attention of their member States the urgency of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Examples of IGO include the work of IAEA, OPCW, WCO, WHO, UNODC, as well as the global efforts of the Implementation support unit (ISU) of the BWC.

The OAS and other regional and sub-regional organizations also have taken important decisions to support the work of the Committee. Resolution 1977 specifically encourages regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance co-operation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It urges such organizations to inform the Committee of areas in which they are able to provide assistance and to provide the Committee with a point of contact or a co-ordinator on implementation of the resolution.

In that regard, the decision and formal designation of a coordinator for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the regional facilitator designated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the coordinator already designated for the Integration System for Central America (SICA) each could constitute an added value to the effort of the Committee and experts in the process of implementing mandate 1540.

Expanding cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations remains a complex task for the 1540 Committee. How to expand such cooperation on requires further exploration by the Committee, including more analysis by the Committee on which elements of potential cooperation to focus and strategies to do so. Mapping relevant activities of international, regional and sub-regional

organizations also will help the Committee understand where it can best provide assistance. Certainly, there are many ways in which regional and sub regional bodies can contribute to the implementation process.

Regional and sub-regional organizations have clear knowledge of common interests between members of the region. Therefore they can help identify the capacity gaps regarding the adoption of UNSCR 1540, and ensure their capability to require assistance.

The regional coordinators can become a mechanism to maximize comparative advantages of the organization, regions, facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on national implementation among the countries of the region and share it with those outside the region.

We hope all participants here will actively engage in sharing relevant experiences and lessons learned as well as interact dynamically with myself and the 1540 Committee expert and other panellists in this workshop, both in the formal sessions and in the bilateral dialogues with each country delegation that are planned for the last day.

In closing, I would like to thank again our host country, the sponsors and organizers of this event, as well as to the delegates and panelists for their contributions to ensure a successful workshop.

Thank you.