

**12th Meeting of Special Services, Security Agencies and
Law Enforcement Organizations**

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Statement by Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the 1540 Committee

Forging Partnership to Prevent WMD Terrorism

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, I would like to thank Director Bortnikov and his Federal Security Service team for the kind invitation and the heartfelt hospitality. I commend the FSB for taking this valuable and now traditional initiative to gather, so-to-speak, key “guardians” from all over the world to strengthen cooperation against terrorism.

There is no need to explain that terrorism is an everyday concern and that WMD terrorism is a threat in reality. The IAEA’s 2012 Nuclear Security Report referred to 19 incidents involving illegal possession of and attempts to sell nuclear material or radioactive sources. The recent ricin letters in the United States reminded us of the anthrax fear of 2001.

As the Chair of the 1540 Committee, it is my mission to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and assist the UN Member States in this regard. It was the first resolution adopted under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. In 2011, Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) reaffirmed the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) and extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years. This was a clear recognition that countering the threat of WMD proliferation by non-State actors is a continuous and long term task.

Resolution 1540 (2004) has established binding obligations on all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. States are also required to adopt and

enforce appropriate and effective measures to prevent non-State actors from engaging in these activities.

Since the adoption of the resolution, many States have achieved real progress in implementation. Now the total number of national implementation reports submitted by States is 169, a remarkably high level for voluntary reporting. Recently, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011) that encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis their national implementation action plans (NAPs), States have begun submitting such plans. They map out individual State's priorities for implementing key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). This trend is gaining momentum – the 1540 Committee is engaged in a dialogue with a number of States to assist them to develop their NAPs at their request.

Now, just a year before the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution, the 1540 Committee is seeking universal reporting to further consolidate the universal commitment to this cause. We also want to further develop bilateral and multilateral partnerships with States and relevant international organizations to identify existing and potential challenges and gaps in the implementation of the resolution.

While each State may well have its own solutions appropriate to their unique circumstances, sustained cooperation from all stakeholders is vital since the global impact of resolution 1540 is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. The rapidly changing global, political, scientific and technological environment also reinforces the need for the exploitation of all available opportunities for international cooperation. Moreover, terrorists and criminal organizations are adapting their operations to evade legal and other enforcement efforts, exploiting global terrorist networks. Meanwhile, limits in resources force us to take a risk-based approach to our counter-terrorism activities. And there is only so much that a single country can do alone in this respect.

In this regard, the role of the “guardians” gathered here today cannot be overstressed. As the first and final lines of defence, your agencies not only play an integral role in interdiction actions. You have the capacities to conduct the necessary risk analyses, and thus diagnose your country's vulnerabilities and strengths.

As for the 1540 Committee, we are enhancing our bilateral and multilateral interaction with States and relevant international and regional organizations. The exchange of information, experiences, and lessons learned are essential for identifying the gaps in the implementation of the resolution. Collaborative analysis of the threats and the risks they pose is a prerequisite for successfully identifying urgent measures to be taken on a cooperative basis. From this perspective, the 1540 Committee has embarked on an effort to build a living network of contacts of all UN Member States and place itself as the hub for improved communication and interaction with States within its mandate.

Professional international organizations, such as the IAEA, OPCW, and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), to name a few, take the lead in such matters as security of materials, border controls and trans-shipments. We have also recently increased our cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to focus our attention on the proliferation financing of terrorist networks. In this regard, I welcome the new Russian presidency of the FATF and look forward to effective cooperation on this front.

Making use of the full array of available resources, the 1540 Committee has been actively playing a matchmaking role between requests and offers of assistance. Providing detection or protection equipment, strengthening of border check points or the development of container control, assisting legislative drafting, and training programs enhance capacity building and enforce both non-proliferation and counter-terrorist potential.

Let me conclude by reemphasizing the importance of forging an active partnership between all security communities in our joint fight against WMD proliferation by non-State actors. As a part of the global non-proliferation network, the 1540 Committee stands ready to play its part in countering WMD terrorist threats. Yet our security can only be guaranteed through effective and sustained collaboration of all stakeholders. I particularly turn to the intelligence and security community here today to seek your active cooperation in this vital effort as you are integral components in

the national and international counter-terrorism architectures. On that note, I look forward to fruitful discussions and to hearing innovative ideas. Thank you. /end/