

**11th Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies  
and Law Enforcement Organizations  
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**Implementation of 1540 Resolution  
Presentation by Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chairman of the 1540  
Committee**

Chairperson, Director Bortnikov,  
Distinguished participants,

Speaking on behalf of the 1540 Committee I would like to extend my gratitude to the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation for the opportunity to deliver a presentation to this audience. It is not the first time that I speak at these events - a year ago in St. Petersburg I had the special pleasure to make a presentation on efforts taken by our Committee to prevent weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors, including terrorists.

As you are aware, the United Nations is at the center of efforts to prevent non-State actors in general, and terrorists in particular, from gaining access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The threat still remains acute, and one of the concerns raised recently was the danger that existing nuclear facilities and materials could become potential targets of terrorists given various incidents of illicit trafficking in nuclear materials.

Due to the intensification of international strategic trade, dual-use chemical and biological items have also become more accessible to non-State actors who may commit acts of terrorism. In this regard, any illicit activities are of concern, and the prospect of the development of nuclear, chemical and biological facilities may also require that States upgrade security to mitigate the risks.

No country has immunity from the danger of non-State actors exploiting its territory for production and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, means of their delivery or related materials. The obligations set up by resolution 1540 (2004) concern all States, not only those possessing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials. The risk that some States may be used as points of transit and trans-shipment in the proliferation of these weapons and their related materials still makes the implementation of the resolution important for the next several years of the Committee's existence.

Chairperson,

Before talking about activities by the 1540 Committee since our last meeting, let me remind that the Committee is the main subsidiary body of the Security Council dedicated to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. Resolution 1977 (2011) adopted last year extended the mandate of the Committee for ten years and reaffirmed the need for all States to comply fully with their obligations and fulfill their commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in all aspects of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In July 2012 the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed the new group of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

According to its mandate the Committee conducts activities on the following tracks: implementation, assistance, co-operation with international organizations, and on outreach and transparency.

Implementation

The primary responsibility for implementation of the resolution rests with States, and their ability to implement appropriate and effective measures to secure WMD and related materials is of crucial importance. In this regard one of the main tasks of the 1540 Committee is to contribute to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regimes by assisting States in their efforts to meet the requirements of the resolution and prevent non-State actors from acquiring, developing, trafficking in or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or their means of delivery. In this vein, the Committee encourages close co-operation with countries on the basis of a long-term approach to assist them to comply fully with their obligations and fulfil their commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

On 12 September 2011 the Committee adopted its report on implementation of resolution 1540 and has submitted it to the Security Council. Over 140 States have taken legislative measures to implement their obligations under resolution 1540, however, much work is to be done given that the urgency and the magnitude of the threat remain considerable. In this regard, the Committee continues to promote the implementation of the resolution with a focus on practical ways and means to assist States to meet their obligations.

Recently the Republic of the Congo has submitted a first report with the intention of taking further measures to meet their obligations. Belarus and Serbia have submitted voluntary national action plans to the Committee. Kyrgystan has informed the Committee that they have begun a process to do so.

It will not be an exaggeration to say that developing States face many challenges implementing the resolution and need more support for fulfilling their obligations under the resolution. For example, by now around 20 of the total of 25 States that have not submitted first reports to the Committee are African States. Nevertheless, in recent years progress has been achieved in this regard: in 2011 Ethiopia, Gabon and Rwanda made their submissions, and as mentioned, the Republic of the Congo has also taken the initiative.

In line with resolution 1977, the 1540 Committee increased its efforts to engage in dialogue on implementation of the resolution with States. We are mindful of a number of urgent political, economic, environment and health problems that stand before developing States and consume much of their resources. To address these challenges, they have to balance their priorities, taking into account scarce resources for capacity building to withstand security threats of this nature.

#### Assistance

In its turn, the Committee has undertaken several steps to assist all States that need assistance. Though it does not provide assistance directly, the 1540 Committee, together with its experts is involved in constant dialogue on implementation of resolution 1540 with the authorities of many States including on assistance issues. Such dialogues take place in various outreach events as well as in meetings in New York to raise awareness on the importance of the resolution and to understand better the needs and problems States face on their way to full implementation of the resolution.

The match-making role of the Committee was established through resolution 1540 and reiterated and strengthened by resolution 1977. We constantly encourage States in a position to do so to provide assistance and also engage relevant international organizations to study assistance requests when appropriate. The Committee participates in discussions on assistance and capacity building issues in various fora, such as the G8 Global Partnership Working Group meetings.

As Chairman of the 1540 Committee I have sent letters to States and regional organizations that have requested assistance to inform them on the replies received and to inquire whether their requests were met. Recently we have received some assistance requests from Latin America and Central Asia and expect more to come.

At the present stage the Committee sees its task in continuing and activating its dialogue with various countries, trying to find potential assistance partners, increasing awareness on existing risks and potential threats. Some States may wish the Committee to provide them legislative expertise including drafting certain laws and regulations in a manner compatible with their real needs and priorities. In other cases, technical and material assistance is more essential and appropriate to contribute to the implementation of the resolution. The needs of States in implementing their obligations may relate to matters such as providing technical detection equipment and enhancing capacity building for border control. Assistance to secure maritime ports with portal monitors and detection systems, and the development of container control programs would increase security from the sea. Needless to say, all these measures indirectly strengthen counter-terrorism efforts of States.

#### Co-operation

Though I have mentioned that the implementation of resolution 1540 is the responsibility of States, assistance from the international community can play a major role in enhancing the capability of States to meet their requirements. Assistance could be further localized and tailored to support more specific country needs when provided through relevant international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention International Support Unit (BWC-ISU).

Co-operation with regional and sub-regional organizations is helpful in another way to provide fora at which their members can share their experiences and lessons learned. We acknowledge that the African Union, Organization of American States, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and others might be appropriate platforms to assist States in the implementation of the resolution and we would welcome hearing more from them about what is needed to assist their Member States to address requirements of resolution 1540. Other

entities like the European Union can be a source of assistance, if they so wish and we appreciate their present and future input.

The 1540 Committee also continues its close interaction with other UN counter-terrorism bodies through cooperation with 1267/1989 and 1373 Committees and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) within their relevant mandates including organization of joint briefings and mutual participation in outreach events.

#### Outreach and transparency

During the year that has passed since our last meeting the Committee and the experts have participated in dozens of outreach events listed on the website of the Committee. This includes participation in the first International Conference of International, Regional and Sub-regional Industry Associations on resolution 1540 held in Germany in April. In June a representative of the 1540 Committee Chairman and an expert participated at UN Headquarters in the Conference on Chemical, Biological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE), organized by the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the European Union.

In the upcoming months I look forward also to other important 1540-related events, including a workshop for African States in my own country, South Africa.

In conclusion, Chairperson, the 1540 Committee continues to ensure full implementation of its mandate. We reiterate that any unauthorised access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related material and facilities by non-State actors, including for terrorist purposes, is a threat to international peace and security. We hope that our joint efforts will contribute to the global counter-terrorist efforts of all States on all continents.

I thank you.