

Promoting the Global Instruments of Non-proliferation and Disarmament:
The United Nations and the Nuclear Challenge
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**Remarks by
Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of South Africa and
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

Articulating the Challenges of WMD Proliferation

**Challenges for UN Non-Proliferation Regime and Other Institutional Efforts
to strengthen global non-proliferation**

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome the opportunity to speak at this event focusing on the role of the United Nations in promoting relevant global instruments to address the nuclear challenge and in particular this session, to strengthen global non-proliferation. As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I would like to highlight the contributions of our Committee to this objective.

The Committee was established in 2004 in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1540, which aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, by preventing non-State actors from acquiring, developing, trafficking or using these weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. In addition, the resolution presented illicit trafficking of materials related to such weapons as a new dimension of proliferation, and thus required additional domestic controls and measures to prevent such diversion. The international community has realized that the nexus between WMD proliferation and terrorism has become one of the most dangerous realities of our time.

Since then, many States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and civil society have intensified their effort to fight WMD proliferation and terrorism. As part of this process, the 1540 Committee has actively contributed to strengthened global non-proliferation and counter-terrorism regimes. It also has contributed to better prepare States to prevent proliferation of WMD by and to non-State actors and continues to work closely with States to assist them to take additional measures to implement all their obligations under the resolution.

Since the adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004, nearly 140 States have adopted legislative measures to prevent WMD proliferation. In the context of this event's focus on nuclear challenges, as an example, I can share the Committee's findings that the number of countries having in their national legal framework some measures prohibiting the manufacture of nuclear weapons has risen from 32 in 2006 to 71 in 2009, and to more than 120 in 2011.

While the status of implementation of the resolution continues to improve since 2004, the Committee recognizes that still much work remains ahead and that the gravity of the threat remains considerable. The full implementation of the resolution would be a great contribution to global non-proliferation but it requires long term efforts by States to meet all the requirements and recommendations of the resolution. To that end the Security Council on 20 April 2011 unanimously adopted resolution 1977. The new resolution extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years, which will enhance the 1540 Committee's efforts to support States in their implementation by enabling the Committee to plan its activities over a long period.

Resolution 1977 (2011) reaffirms the need for all Member States to comply fully with their obligations and fulfil their commitments in relation to non-proliferation and disarmament in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The Council further noted that the full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. The mandate contained in resolution 1977 (2011) provides the 1540 Committee with a sound and efficient basis for its work over the next decade. The resolution *inter alia* mandates the Committee to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance its cooperation with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Committee is also mandated to continue to refine its outreach efforts at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels, and to continue to institute transparency measures, including through regular open meetings with Member States.

Let me present some recent activities of the 1540 Committee in different areas to reflect the role of the Committee and its experts to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540.

In the area of implementation, the Committee approved matrices of 192 UN Member States by December 2010. These matrices included information from reports that the Committee continues to receive as well as information from official sources of information. The information in these matrices forms the foundation of the data that will appear in the 1540 Committee's Report to the Security Council. I would like to emphasize that Resolution 1977 (2011) enhances the Committee's ability to work with Member States in a cooperative manner on their implementation efforts. These include encouraging States to report on a voluntary basis effective practices and national implementation action plans, and actively engaging in dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to States at their invitation.

On assistance, the Committee has adopted revised procedures to address assistance requests. The Committee continues its efforts to strengthen its clearinghouse and match-making roles including by considering new guidelines, and by encouraging States to provide updated information regarding former assistance requests or offers as well as assistance points of contacts. The Committee also coordinates and facilitates technical assistance through such means as assistance templates, voluntary action plans, other information submitted to the Committee, and country visits at the invitation of the States.

The Committee also participated in discussions held in the framework of a meeting for G8 1540 experts, and engaged with other regional and sub-regional organizations and IGOs to encourage greater involvement in providing assistance to those States that require it. In addition as a facilitator of technical assistance, the Committee supports financial contributions to the 1540 Committee through the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament to better resource select UN activities.

On cooperation, the Committee continues to engage with international, regional and sub regional organizations such as the IAEA, the OPCW, the BWC-Implementation Support Unit (ISU), FATF and others including from civil society,, For example, 1540 Committee members and experts participated in a conference with 25 relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations held in Vienna last December.. The Committee also continues to enhance ongoing cooperation with the 1267 and 1373 Committees, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), within their respective mandates.

On transparency and outreach, the Committee posted on its website approximately 180 of the Committee approved matrices as well as Information Notes on the outreach activities in which 1540 Committee Members and experts have participated during the recent years. The 1540 Committee and its group of experts continued to participate in outreach events to facilitate States'

implementation of resolution 1540, in regions such as Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific Islands region. Thematically, workshops addressed issues in addition to those above related to the main international organisations, and included on Export Controls (in Japan), on Transshipment (in the United Arab Emirates), and on countering proliferation financing (in France, organized by FATF) .

Concluding my presentation I would like to express my hope that concerted efforts taken by the international community, and the UN in particular, to prevent access of non-state actors to weapons of mass destruction would enhance international peace and security. I look forward to the discussion where new ideas can be explored to further this goal.

Thank you.