

The Turtle Bay Security Roundtable:
Navigating the Sanctions Regime, Promoting Proliferation Prevention
5 December 2011, New York City

Opening remarks by
Ambassador Nawaf Salam, Permanent Representative of Lebanon and Acting
Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Second session: Enhancing the Global Regime of Non-Proliferation.

Ambassador Tsuneo Nishida, Ambassador Witold Sobków, Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome the opportunity to speak at this important and timely event and to open the second session dedicated to “Enhancing the Global Regime of Non-Proliferation”. Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Poland to the United Nations for gathering us, in cooperation with the Stimson Center, in an informal setting to have interactive and lively discussions on issues of interest for all here. At the closing of the event last May on “Promoting the Global Instruments of Nonproliferation and Disarmament: the United Nations and the Nuclear Challenge”, Ambassador Nishida announced that there would be a follow-up event by the end of the year. I am glad it was made possible, as this kind of setting is helpful to discuss our collective efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery and to create the security conditions to pave the way toward additional disarmament measures.

This workshop offers an opportunity to discuss international cooperation in effectively implementing relevant UN Security Council resolutions to prevent and combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. These are recognized by the Security Council as a threat to international peace and security, and therefore call for tireless efforts and our utmost determination. To prevent and combat proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, the Security Council has adopted several relevant resolutions, of different natures and scope. Resolution 1540 (2004) plays a significant and central role, by obliging all States to take specific measures to prevent, deter and respond to proliferation to and by non-State actors.

Distinguished panellists will address various aspects of building capacity among Member States to effectively implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions in the area of non-proliferation, including resolution 1540 (2004). They will share their experience in specific measures, by national authorities, which can contribute to enhancing the implementation capacity of Member States. Successful cases of national measures, efforts made through industry as well as international cooperation will be introduced, to foster interactive discussion with all participants.

As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I would like to highlight some aspects of the work of the Committee which are relevant for today’s discussions:

- Dialogue between Member States and the 1540 Committee is the key for effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Direct contact is an effective means of such dialogue. In this regard, I note that 24 States that have not yet submitted a report to the Committee on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004). States that need assistance or any additional information to prepare their first national report are welcome to liaise with the members of the Committee or with its experts. States that have already submitted a report to the Committee are encouraged to provide additional information on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including, voluntarily, on States' effective practices;
- The 1540 Committee welcomes the submission by any State of national action plans, made on a voluntary basis, mapping out their national priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee has already received four such plans, submitted by Argentina, Canada, France and the United States. The 1540 Committee stands ready to provide assistance to States, as appropriate, to prepare national action plans;
- The 1540 Committee engages actively with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote in accordance with resolution 1977, the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), drawing in particular on information provided by States as well as examples of successful assistance;
- The 1540 Committee does not prescribe any particular standard or measure to be taken by States, as it is for States to decide, at their level, how they fulfil the resolution 1540 requirements. However, the 1540 Committee, with the support of the group of experts, has been requested by the Security Council, through resolution 1977 (2011) adopted last April, to identify effective practices, templates and guidance, with a view to developing their compilation. As it is, the 1540 Committee identified many such practices and standards in its most recent report to the Security Council;
- The implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is the responsibility of States. The 1540 Committee plays a central role in fostering dialogue and cooperation with them and with all relevant partners, such as international, regional and sub-regional organizations and arrangements, and using the expertise of the civil society and the private sector as appropriate;
- States that have requests for assistance are encouraged to convey them to the 1540 Committee, which facilitates match-making between requests and offers of assistance. In this regard, the Security Council, through resolution 1977 (2011), urges States and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to inform the Committee of areas in which they are able to provide assistance. States and such organizations are called upon to provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact for assistance without delay;
- The 1540 Committee and its experts can conduct visits to States, at their invitation, for in-depth dialogue on any matter relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I encourage States to make full use of this possibility, at any stage in their implementation efforts.

Distinguished participants, I would like to mention some significant developments since the previous event in May:

- On 12 September, the 1540 Committee submitted to the Security Council its report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in accordance with paragraph 14 of resolution 1810 (2008). The report is available on the website of the 1540 Committee in all UN official languages. As it is a long and substantive report, I will not describe its content here. I will limit myself to mentioning that the report concludes that, while the status of implementation of the resolution has continued to improve since 2004, the Committee recognizes that much work remains to be done and that the gravity of the threat remains considerable. In its report, the Committee underscores that a long-term effort by States is required to fully implement the resolution. The Committee recommends that it, States and international, regional and subregional organizations in cooperation, where appropriate, with academia, industry and civil society, should take a long-term approach to advance national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- The 1540 Committee has been actively working, with assistance from its experts and the UN Secretariat, on the formulation of recommendations for the Committee and the group of experts on expertise requirements, broad geographic representation, working methods, modalities, and structure, including consideration of the feasibility of a coordination and leadership position of the group of experts, in accordance with operative paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011);
- With the support in particular of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, a major re-design of the 1540 Committee website is under way, with a view to facilitating access to all relevant information, in an open and transparent manner;
- In September, the 1540 Committee, with support of its experts and assistance from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, conducted its first visit to a State. This first visit took place in Washington DC, at the invitation of the United States. Other visits to States at their invitation were conducted, and additional ones are being discussed with States that have already expressed an interest for such visits;
- In October, 1540 Committee experts attended a meeting of the G8 Global Partnership Working Group in Paris, to participate in discussions on possible programs to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in line with the Global Partnership Assessment and Options for Future Programming, adopted at the Deauville Summit, which identifies four priorities for the future of the Global Partnership, including facilitation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- In November, the Committee heard a briefing by the Romanian Presidency of the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation.
- Finally, since 31 May 2011, the 1540 Committee and its experts have participated in almost 30 outreach events, with the support of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, fostering dialogue with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the civil society and the private sector.

I look forward to the presentations to be delivered by the distinguished panellists, and to active discussions with all participants.

Thank you.