

**10th Meeting of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law
Enforcement Organizations**

6 July 2011, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

**Statement by Ambassador Baso Sangqu,
Chairman of the 1540 Committee,**

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished participants of our meeting,

On behalf of the Security Council's Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540, I would like to thank the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation for inviting us to participate in this event.

As you are aware, the 1540 Committee was established in 2004 to meet the challenges posed by the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by non-State actors. At that time, the international community had begun to realise that the nexus between WMD proliferation and non-State actors was becoming a dangerous reality.

The United Nations Security Council therefore decided to take action against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, in conformity with the United Nations Charter.

Now, more than seven years since the adoption of the resolution, the international community has take significant steps to meet this challenge. Many

States, international organizations and civil society have intensified their effort to fight WMD proliferation and terrorism. Our Committee actively participates in this broader process as a part of the global counter-terrorism strategy.

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

Recent years have demonstrated that the status of implementation of the resolution continues to improve. The number of States that have reported on implementation has grown considerably and has reached 166. By now nearly 140 States have in place legislative measures to prevent WMD proliferation, compared to 14 in 2006. In the nuclear area, for example, the number of countries reporting on measures in their national legal framework regarding the manufacture and production of nuclear weapons has risen from 32 in 2006 to 71 in 2009, and to more than 120 in 2011.

There has been a similar increase in countries that have reported on enforcement provisions against financing of illicit nuclear activities. Additionally, more countries have reported on provisions in their legal framework prohibiting non-State actors from illicitly trafficking in chemical weapons-related and biological weapons-related materials.

During the last six months, the Committee received first reports on the implementation of the resolution from Ethiopia, Gabon and Rwanda respectively. The Committee also received additional information from Finland, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine. We hope that more States will provide their first reports and additional information.

However, the Committee recognizes that much work still remains ahead and that the gravity of the threat remains considerable. A number of terrorist acts in recent years in different parts of the world confirm this observation. There are also numerous signals on the continuing attempts of terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction. UN Security Council Resolution 1977, adopted on 24 April this year, extends the mandate of our Committee for ten years and reaffirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery still constitutes a threat to international peace and security. In this regard, the Security Council acknowledges the progress made by States in implementing resolution 1540, and further notes that the full implementation of this resolution by all States requires continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels.

The Committee often reminds that resolution 1540 was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and is mandatory. Even if some States have no capacity to produce or acquire WMD related materials, the requirements of the resolution are applicable to all States, as no country is safe from the danger of terrorists exploiting its territory for transit or trans-shipment of such materials for malicious purposes.

Today the Committee has established itself as an important player in the international non-proliferation landscape. It continues to raise awareness of the importance of resolution 1540 not only through its extensive outreach and dialogue with Member States, but also through co-operation with relevant

international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other UN bodies and through transparency with the international community as a whole.

The Committee continues to interact with many governmental institutions and international organizations, such as the IAEA, the OPCW, the BWC- ISU and others that have expertise and experience to assist and encourage States in their efforts to implement the resolution. From the counter-terrorist and anti-criminal perspective the Committee co-operates with Interpol, UNICRI, UNODC and other relevant UN Security Council Committees, in particular, the 1267 and 1373 Committees.

Since the adoption of resolution 1540, many international and regional organizations representing nearly all UN Member States have begun to incorporate practical steps towards implementation of the resolution into their work programs. These actions are of great importance, as these organizations have real influence on their members and enjoy their political support.

Distinguished participants of the meeting,

As has already been mentioned, combating proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery by non-State actors remains an urgent common task. In this regard, the Committee sees the need to increase its ability to enable and expedite the sharing of lessons learned and effective practices among States and relevant international organizations, which can save limited resources that some States may put to use for other circumstances.

Terrorists, criminal organizations and other non-State actors are continually adapting their strategies and tactics to evade legal and enforcement efforts to prohibit or control activities, as required under resolution 1540. This

entails constant vigilance by States, and relevant organizations and bodies, including the 1540 Committee, who have to be prepared to meet emerging proliferation threats wherever they come from. To this end the Committee decided to continue reviewing regularly the status of implementation of the resolution. We have also decided to continue working with States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations, in a transparent and co-operative manner, to identify possible gaps and breaches in implementation of resolution 1540, and in the non-proliferation regime as a whole. Resolution 1977 (2011), in addition to requiring comprehensive reviews on a five yearly basis, requires the completion of annual reviews on the implementation of resolution 1540 before the end of each December.

In the last year, the 1540 Committee and its group of experts participated in outreach events at the regional and sub-regional levels: for example, in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific Islands region. Thematically, the workshops addressed issues such as export controls (in Japan), trans-shipment (in the United Arab Emirates) and proliferation financing, as addressed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Working Group on Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering.

These events have provided the 1540 Committee with an opportunity for dialogue to discuss cooperation arrangements, including information exchange, sharing of experience and assistance programs that can contribute to implementation of resolution 1540.

Resolution 1977 (2011) provides the 1540 Committee with an enhanced and efficient basis for its work over the next decade including on assistance issues which, for some States, can be crucial for implementation of resolution 1540. The resolution, *inter alia*, mandates the Committee to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 by matching offers and requests through such means as visits to

States, at the invitation of the State concerned, assistance templates, and action plans. To that end, resolution 1977 urges States and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to inform the Committee of areas in which they are able to provide assistance and also to provide information on a point of contact for assistance.

Distinguished participants,

Using this opportunity I would like to call on participants of this meeting, as appropriate, to share with the Committee information on the efforts taken by States and the international organizations they represent to combat non-State actors attempts acquire weapons of mass destruction and related materials. We would also be grateful for information on national points of contact.

Since its inception the Committee has accumulated valuable information on the implementation of resolution 1540 by States. This information has been systematized in the form of Matrices – tables for each State that together contain thousands of pieces of relevant data on legislation, regulations and enforcement measures adopted by said States. By the end of 2010, the 1540 Committee had reviewed and approved 192 country matrices that contain data coming primarily from States' reports and other official sources. Using these data the Committee, together with States, can monitor the process of implementation and identify existing gaps for further implementation. The information in these matrices forms the foundation of the data that will appear in the 1540 Committee's Report to the Security Council later this year.

The Committee continues to work on formal assistance requests and is in the process of drafting new guidelines to address a range of informal requests and strengthen its clearinghouse and match-making roles. The task is to raise awareness about the enhanced procedures for processing assistance requests, making them more reader-friendly and to encourage States to provide any

updated information regarding formerly submitted requests or offers of assistance.

With regard to transparency, the Committee posted on its website approximately 180 of the Committee-approved country matrices, with the consent of relevant States. It also posts Information Notes on the outreach activities in which 1540 Committee Members and experts have participated during the recent years. The Working Group on Transparency and Media Outreach also examined the 1540 Committee's media strategy in the context of the new resolution, 1977 (2011), and the forthcoming 1540 Committee Report to the Security Council.

Distinguished participants,

The means for the 1540 Committee to promote the implementation and effectiveness of resolution 1540 is by ***dialogue and cooperation*** with States to achieve common objectives.

I trust that this presentation has introduced the goals, objectives and activities of the 1540 Committee. I hope that this meeting will be a good contribution to our common goal in the global fight against international terrorism in all its forms.