

**Message from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee 1540,
Ambassador Kim Sook, to the Workshop on the Implementation of
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

15-17 January 2013
Minsk, Belarus

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Belarus, the Executive Committee of Commonwealth of Independent States, the Conflict Prevention Center of the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their efforts to host and organize this meeting. Unfortunately, due to the previous engagements I cannot attend this workshop nonetheless I am grateful for an opportunity to send a message to participants of this timely and important event.

Before going to the substance let me remind you that resolution 1540 was the first formal resolution adopted by the Security Council to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery with a focus on non-State actors. Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter this document established binding obligations on all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to get access to weapons of mass destruction. It also requires States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective measures to prevent non-State actors from engaging in those specific activities.

The UN Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for ten years enhancing the Committee's efforts to support States in their implementation of the resolution on the basis of a long term perspective. This resolution re-affirms the need for all States to comply fully with their obligations under 1540 process and fulfill their commitments on non-proliferation of WMD and acknowledges that continuous efforts are still required.

In recent years more States have taken measures to implement the resolution. By now reporting by States have reached a high level with around 170 having submitted at least one report and 105 having provided additional information. However, 24 States have yet to submit their initial report and the Committee continues to encourage them to do so. From the enforcement side the progress is also visible. States have concentrated more on concrete measures, such as strengthening their borders, export controls, physical protection of WMD and related materials and enhancing capacity building. This focus on practical work has resulted in a more active role of the Committee's engagement in dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to countries at their invitation. During the last two years a number of States announced their intent to develop voluntary national action plans on implementation of the resolution and some of them have already submitted these plans to the Committee.

Though the task of the Committee is to assist States in their implementation of the resolution it is evident that to achieve serious results in this area is impossible without a broad-based increase in cooperation between the United Nations, including the 1540

Committee, and relevant regional and international organizations. Supporting the work of the Committee, these organizations are engaged in enhancing cooperation and information sharing on all issues related to the resolution. The political support of international, regional and sub-regional organizations to their member-States is also of importance. They can assist in monitoring the process of implementation and urge their member-States to take necessary steps in this direction. It is noteworthy that they can also assist those States that need help in implementation of the resolution.

In this regard interaction of the 1540 Committee with these organizations, including the Commonwealth of Independent States, is an important tool for the global effort in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

We are quite aware that member-States of the CIS understand the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-State actors, and first of all terrorists, as much, if not more, than any other States.

It is also important to note that some CIS members produce, or produced in the past, WMD related materials, including dual use items. This makes CIS States a potential target for non-State actors' efforts to acquire these items for malicious purposes. There have been a number of known attempts by non-State actors to engage in illicit trafficking of WMD related goods and services on the territory of CIS countries. For the most part such attempts took place more than a decade ago but this menace continues to be a reality.

The 1540 Committee has a history of cooperation with the CIS countries and appreciates their efforts in the field of non-proliferation. All these countries are members of major WMD-related treaties and conventions, all of them have submitted their reports to the 1540 Committee in a timely fashion and most of them have provided additional information. The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS has adopted several model laws aimed at preventing proliferation and terrorism.

The implementation of the resolution is an ongoing process with new challenges constantly emerging. We have to adapt to the new realities in furthering the resolution's objectives. The 1540 Committee is interested in fostering its cooperation with the CIS in order to bring it to an even higher level. In this regard we are ready to seek new forms of collaboration and are open to new ideas and suggestions.

I hope that this workshop will discuss ways and means to enhance implementation of the resolution in the CIS region by identifying effective practices and experiences that will help us to meet the existing challenges and will contribute to the achievement of our common goal of preventing non-State actors from having access to WMD.

I wish you success with your workshop.