

Statement by Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the 1540 Committee, at the Meeting on "Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors: The Implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Arab World", hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, for hosting us today to discuss the important matter of the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors and the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It is a privilege to address such a distinguished audience, with so many friends and colleagues.

As the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York, I have the honor of chairing the 1540 Committee, the subsidiary body of the Security Council dedicated to monitoring and facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Chairing such a central non-proliferation body is a challenging but rewarding task in the light of the breadth of the mandate and the volume of work to be done. In this endeavour, I am privileged to benefit from the active involvement of the members of the 1540 Committee. I am glad that four members of the Committee – Ms Soledad Urruela Arenales from Guatemala, Mr Tomas Napolitano from France, Mr Bouchaid El Oumni from Morocco and Mr Michael Aho from the United States – will deliver presentations today on topics of key importance for resolution 1540 (2004), and that other members of the Committee are also present at this important event to engage in dialogue with the participants.

I would like to commend the active role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. I must acknowledge with appreciation the pledge by Saudi Arabia of US\$500,000 to support of projects that will enhance the implementation of the resolution. The high-level event in support of resolution 1540 (2004) hosted by Saudi Arabia last December in New York highlighted the importance of the resolution for the members of the League of Arab States. Also the successful training workshop for Customs officials held in Riyadh in January this year, was another indication of the commitment of Saudi

Arabia to foster cooperation in this area and to exercise leadership in developing and strengthening national capacities.

Our discussions today will draw out the three main obligations for States that stem from resolution 1540 (2004):

- an obligation to refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery;
- an obligation to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit and prosecute such activities by non-State actors; and,
- an obligation for States to establish domestic controls over materials, equipment and technology which could be used for the design, development, production or use of weapons and mass destruction and their means of delivery.

While these obligations are briefly expressed, they cover a wide array of issues, and their effective implementation requires the active involvement, at the national level, of different agencies and professional communities who need to work together in a coordinated way to achieve full compliance. As was noted by the Committee in its report to the Security Council in 2012, the full implementation of the resolution is a continuous task, and much work remains to be done by all of us. Also each country and region will encounter specific challenges in their implementation efforts and I hope that in discussion we will all learn from each other.

In this context, I am glad that members of the League of Arab States and other States gather together today, along with the key relevant international organizations, to share implementation experience, to discuss existing challenges as well as next steps towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I hope that in this informal setting that you will all feel free to express your ideas on the important subject of this event. Our special thanks should go to those who have travelled from Geneva (BWC/ISU) and The Hague (OPCW) especially to join us for this gathering. I would encourage all participants, also, to take advantage of the presence of the members of the group of experts supporting the Committee, who are eager to share their expertise, not only during the meeting, but also whenever called upon.

Excellency, distinguished participants, I am looking forward to active discussions.

Thank you for your attention.