

**Statement delivered on behalf of Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the 1540 Committee, by Mr Lim Sang-beom, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, at the Workshop 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**

**24 April 2013  
New York, United States**

Your Excellencies ladies and gentlemen,

I express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi for hosting us today, to exchange ideas on the important matter of the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors and the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Today I am speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the 1540 Committee, H.E. Ambassador Kim Sook, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, and who wishes us success in our deliberations.

As you might know there have been discussions over the past two days on the important issue of the implementation of resolution 1540 with participants from the countries of the League of Arab States. It is a fine example how a regional organisation can contribute effectively to the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I would like to pay tribute the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in exercising leadership in this regard; not only in sponsoring the event over these past three days, but also with other important activities in promoting awareness of the obligations under the resolution and in the practical implementation of its provisions. An example of the latter is a workshop in Riyadh held last January to help train customs and border control officials in their responsibilities in this regard. It shows that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully grasps and supports the full range of the obligations required by the resolution.

Those of you who have studied carefully UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) will know that it is an instrument central to the cause of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors by imposing three main obligations

upon States:

- 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.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is a non-proliferation tool of vital importance, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, and reduce the risk of such weapons being used. The participation of all concerned, first and foremost States themselves, is vital to ensure that the resolution is fully and effectively implemented.

The resolution complements, among other binding instruments, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) -- and in effect extends their reach. It is a truly cooperative resolution as it embodies arrangements to share information and request support in developing national plans for its effective implementation. The threat posed by the possibility of non-State actors getting hold of WMD materials is a global one. If such a development resulted in the use of such weapons it would have disastrous humanitarian effects as well as incalculable political consequences.

The value and importance of the resolution was reinforced in 2011 by adoption by the Security Council resolution 1977 when the original resolution of 2004 was extended for ten years. It was recognition that countering the threat of WMD terrorism is a continuous and long term task.

No corner of the globe is exempt from this threat and all States have a role to play in implementing the resolution. In looking at the experience of implementing the resolution it is encouraging to note that there is recognition that implementation of the resolution is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. All States have a role to

play whether it is having strong and appropriate national legislation and regulation in place, collaborating with neighbours and regional organisations, as well as with global international organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Customs Organisation and INTERPOL on such matters as security of facilities, border controls, transshipments, proliferation financing, among other things.

The seriousness with which implementation is taken is amply demonstrated through the provision in resolution 1977 (2011) for visits to States, at their invitation, by members of the 1540 Committee and their supporting group of experts. This more recent arrangement has been taken up by States ranging from the larger ones, like the United States, smaller ones such as Madagascar, and only last week the Chair of the Committee and members of the group of experts were engaged in such a visit in Trinidad and Tobago. There are more requests for such visits in the pipeline from different regions of the world. Given the range of national obligations and international agencies involved these visits are an enormous help in assisting States to ensure that all the stakeholders that should be involved are indeed engaged and taking appropriate action

As you can imagine, governments very much need the support of all parts of civil society in the challenging task of implementing their obligations. Raising awareness and engaging industry, academia and understanding of the public at large is an important element in this global effort to counter the threat of the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. This is why I welcome this gathering today and look forward participating in the open discussion that will follow.

Once again I salute the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for making this event possible

Thank you for your attention.