IRO Seminar on Identification of Effective Practices

Opening remarks by Ms. Pia Poroli, Member of the 1540 Committee

Ladies and gentlemen,

on behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 that I have the honour to represent, I express our thanks to the organisers of this meeting, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), for organising this seminar on the "Identification of Effective Practices".

More importantly, I would like to warmly welcome the representatives of the participating international, regional and subregional organisations and express my sincere gratitude for your willingness to share your experiences and discuss effective practices with us. This is once again an encouraging sign of support for the activities of the 1540 Committee and for your contribution and support to the efforts of States implementing this important resolution. I should also add that the work of ODA, in its supporting role for the work of the Committee, in facilitating the dialogue of the Committee and its experts with the key international stakeholders in this regard – States, civil society, industry and international organisations - is much appreciated.

As you know, this year marks the 10 year anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 in 2004. While the first years were very much devoted to raising awareness for the objectives of the resolution and its obligations, the attention has shifted more and more to seeking to support the actual implementation of the resolution by States. The topic of this meeting – the identification of effective practices – is a reflection of this because the sharing of these practices, experiences or lessons learned will definitely further contribute to overall implementation efforts.

The 1540 Committee's Working Group on Monitoring and National Implementation is coordinating the Committee's efforts in identifying these effective practices. As the current coordinator of this Committee's Working Group, I have a particular interest in the discussions in the following two days. I look forward to reporting on the results to my colleagues in the Working Group and the Committee.

Let me start by providing some more background information on the Committee's mandate in this regard.

With operative paragraph 12 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee, with the support of its group of experts, to identify effective practices, templates and guidance, with a view to develop a compilation, as well as to consider preparing a technical reference guide about resolution 1540 (2004), to be used by States on a voluntary basis in implementing the resolution.

The same resolution encourages States to report, voluntarily, on effective practices for the implementation of the resolution. It also urges the 1540 Committee to engage actively with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organisations to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004).

All follow-up resolutions to resolution 1540 (2004) have called on the Committee to engage in a dialogue on such practices and experiences. Consequently, the 1540 Committee has already published first compilations of such practices in the reports of the Committee to the Security Council in 2008 and 2011[1]. The 1540 Committee does not endorse any of these materials but they are provided as illustrative examples for Member States to consider. It was also mentioned that the compiled information would not comprise an exhaustive list and that the Committee would welcome suggestions from Member States or international bodies for additions or modifications to these examples.

The Committee has recently intensified its work in this area. The aim is to encourage States as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organisations to share more practices. In a second step and on the basis of submissions received, the Committee intends to develop a user-friendly and easily accessible compilation. This compilation is meant to be a reference tool that States can turn to – of course, only if they want to – in order to find guidance or advice on how the obligations and recommendations of the resolution can be implemented. The compilation – most probably some sort of a table - will eventually be published on the 1540 Committee's website and would offer a unique collection of existing effective practices, templates and guidance which are of relevance for the implementation of the resolution.

As a first step, the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Oh Joon, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, wrote a letter to all UN Member States and to relevant international, regional and subregional organisations in November of last year. In this letter, he invited all addresses to share those effective practices with the Committee. I would like to use this opportunity to thank those organisations that have already replied to this letter. Let me also encourage others – especially those that are represented here – to consider submitting a formal response to the Committee as well. I am confident that the contributions that you have prepared for this meeting would be a sound basis for this. You may also feel inspired or encouraged to initiate discussions in your respective organisations about developing more specific 1540-related tools or support materials, including those that are adapted to regional or subregional circumstances.

Ladies and gentlemen,

before closing, I would like to explain what the Committee is actually looking for: we are interested in any kind of guidance or support materials that have been developed by your organisations which you deem are particularly relevant or helpful for States that seek to implement resolution 1540 (2004). This could be materials or publications such as:

- Model legislation;
- Standards;
- Legislative or implementation guides or kits;
- Handbooks;
- Compendiums of (best or effective) practices;

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[1] These compilations can be found in Annex XVII of the 2008 Report (S/2008/493) and in Annex XVI of the 2011 Report (S/2011/579)

- Model templates;
- Control lists;
- IT systems;
- Databases;
- Specific codes of conduct; or
- Specific reports or papers.

I have already mentioned the existing collections in the 2008 and 2011 reports: the practices mentioned there may provide a good starting point for further submissions.

This sort of effective practices, guidance or templates are relevant for resolution 1540 (2004) if they relate to any of the areas covered by the resolution, for example:

- Measures taken to ensure that no support is provided to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapon and their means of delivery [in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Adaptation of the legal framework to prohibit proliferation activities [in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Accounting and securing measures [in accordance with operative paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Physical protection measures [in accordance with operative paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Border control and law enforcement measures [in accordance with operative paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Export and related control measures [in accordance with operative paragraph 3 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- National coordination mechanisms;

- Initiatives, programmes and tools to work with and inform the private sector [in accordance with operative paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004)];

- Mechanisms to adopt and review national control lists; or

- Measures to prevent proliferation financing.

The participating 1540 expert and I are happy to provide more information and background if needed. I very much look forward to your presentations and our discussions and without further ado, let us start this seminar!

Thank you.