

Address by Mr. Isidor Marcel Sene (Senegal)
Member of the 1540 Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council
Resolution 1540 (2004)
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for the
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On behalf of the 1540 Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, H. E. Martin Chungong and IPU members for providing this opportunity to address the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Legislators are key actors in developing and enacting the necessary legal framework to help prevent the potentially catastrophic humanitarian, economic and political consequences of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons proliferating to non-State actors, including terrorists. In its Programme of Work for 2016, the 1540 Committee recognized the need to continue increasing efforts to raise awareness among parliamentarians and other high-level decision makers, by participating and supporting activities directly related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard I am honoured to have the opportunity to speak to this Committee today.

You are already only too well aware of the deadly havoc that terrorists wreak in various parts of the world. The consequence of these heinous crimes would be dramatically multiplied if terrorists get their hands on nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Indeed, as legislators, you have a special responsibility to create a legal framework to prevent this.

I would like to use this opportunity to recall the essence of the legally binding obligations contained in the resolution 1540 (2004). It requires States to:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery;
- Adopt and enforce appropriate legislation that prohibits non-State actors from engaging in any proliferation-related activities;

- Establish domestic controls to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, including by establishing appropriate controls over the materials which could be used for the production of such weapons.

Even if States do not possess weapons of mass destruction they may have materials, equipment or technology that could be used for producing them. In this regard, States are obliged to take effective measures covering a wide range of activities, including on export controls, intangible technology transfers, proliferation financing, transshipment, physical protection and border controls. Of course, while it is a legally binding obligation to have such effective measures, how they are implemented is up to States in accordance with their own legal, regulatory and control systems.

Globalisation, rapid advances in science and technology, and the continuously evolving trading environment bring great benefits – but also new risks. The risks, the benefits need to be protected but the risks need to be addressed through the review, as needed, of measures already in place, or by the introduction of new ones. Effective implementation requires our constant attention.

It is worthy of note that to date, over 90% of the UN Member States, that is to say 176 States, have reported on the measures they have taken on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). While reporting assists the Committee in gaining an understanding of progress made with the implementation of the resolution, it is the effectiveness of such measures, including their enforcement, to implement the resolution that really matters. A helpful step to facilitate a State's implementation of the resolution is the development of voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP), which identify areas where implementation needs to be strengthened, and how this can be achieved. The Committee and its supporting Group of Experts can provide help, if needed, in the development of these plans

I would now like to say a few words about the Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) being conducted by the 1540 Committee. In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided on two reviews of the status of implementation of the resolution – one five years after the adoption of this resolution and a second prior to expiry of

the 1540 Committee's mandate in 2021. It will draw on an analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since the last Review, with the aim of improving the implementation of the resolution, by identifying and recommending specific, practical and appropriate actions to this end. The Committee is currently deliberating on its report to the Security Council on its Review. As part of the Review process a consultation meeting was held in New York at UN headquarters in June this year. Participants included Member States, international and regional organisations and an IPU delegation of parliamentarians from Africa. Selected non-governmental organisations also participated.

Those parliamentarians who attended the 1540 Committee's June consultation were participants in a meeting organised by the IPU for African parliamentarians in Abidjan in February this year hosted by the National Assembly of the Cote d'Ivoire. This meeting was dedicated to the implementation of resolution 1540. I participated in this meeting myself. I look forward to the side event tomorrow that will give a report on the Abidjan meeting. I hope to see many of you there. I hope too that it will contribute the IPU's objective of building a focal point network at the regional level on resolution 1540.

In closing I must stress that the implementation of resolution 1540 is the responsibility of individual States; hence the key role of parliamentarians in enacting the necessary legislation to implement the obligations under the resolution in your countries.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have. I will be here today and tomorrow and I am ready to help you learn more about the obligations deriving from resolution 1540 for you to obtain a better understanding of how your respective parliaments can facilitate the implementation by your governments of the obligations.

Thank you for your attention.