

Conference on Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)

Centres of Excellence (CoE)

UN HQ, 22 June 2012

Statement delivered by the 1540 Committee Representative Ms. Ruvana Naidoo

on behalf of 1540 Committee Chairman Mr. Baso Sangqu

Introduction

Distinguished representatives, dear colleagues,

I would like to thank the organisers of this event for inviting the 1540 Committee to speak here today. On behalf of the Committee, I will address you on the direction taken by the Committee and possible options to foster co-operation between us.

The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2006) plays a central role in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 by States. The extension of its mandate for a period of ten years, until 2021, through resolution 1977 (2011), offers the opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to take a long-term approach that can contribute to national implementation of resolution 1540. Subsequently, one of the key trends emerging in the Committee is the increasing number of States that have requested some form of assistance to implement their legally-binding obligations under the resolution. Fortunately, resolution 1977 provides us with a mechanism through which to facilitate assistance offers and requests.

One aspect of this clearinghouse function is to provide information from which assistance partnerships and co-operation projects can be developed to enhance implementation. This presents us with an opportunity to discuss the relationship between the European Union (EU) Centers for Excellence Initiative and the 1540 Committee. While the 1540 Committee continues to actively play its clearinghouse role to facilitate match-making between requests and offers of assistance, in relation with the implementation by States of resolution 1540, the support of the EU is invaluable. For example, during the Security Council debate on nuclear issues on 19 April this year, the Security Council welcomed “the establishment of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence”¹.

Role of the 1540 Committee in the facilitation of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States

To begin, let me outline the role and work of the 1540 Committee. As the main subsidiary body of the Security Council dedicated to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by non-state actors, the 1540 Committee is a natural interlocutor between the EU Centres of Excellence Initiative and States requiring further assistance in meeting their obligations under resolution 1540.

¹ S/PRST/2012/14

While all elements of mandate of the 1540 Committee are equally important, the Committee has established a system of working groups to focus on important and recurring issues. Four working groups have been set up: on national implementation by States; on assistance; on international co-operation; and, on media outreach and transparency. These constitute the four areas of the work of the Committee, also reflected in resolution 1977.

Facilitating and monitoring the implementation by States of resolution 1540 is a key function of the Committee, which, with the assistance of our experts, keeps track of relevant measures that States have taken or intend to take. The submission by States of a first report on steps that they have taken or intend to take is an initial step towards implementation of the resolution. As of now, 25 States have yet to submit a report. 5 States have informed the Committee of the adoption of voluntary national action plans which map out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of the resolution.

The Security Council recognized that some States may need assistance to fully implement resolution 1540 while others might be able to provide assistance in reply to specific requests, and urged the 1540 Committee to continue to strengthen its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of the resolution. States that have requests for assistance are encouraged to convey them to the 1540 Committee, and States and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations are encouraged to inform the Committee of areas in which they are able to provide assistance. The 1540 Committee has taken concrete steps to

improve its facilitation of technical assistance and to strengthen the dialogue with providers of assistance on capacity-building opportunities. The information shared by the European Union on the projects launched in the framework of the EU Centres of Excellence Initiative is one illustration.

International co-operation is another important tool to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 by States. The Security Council calls upon relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to designate and provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact or coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 and encourages them to enhance co-operation and information sharing with the Committee on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance. Relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations are also called upon to provide the Committee with a point of contact for assistance.

The work and activities of the 1540 Committee are guided by the principle of transparency, helping to enhance confidence, foster great co-operation and raise the awareness of States, relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and the private sector regarding issues relevant to resolution 1540, which facilitates the implementation of the resolution by States. The 1540 Committee frequently participates in outreach and transparency activities and updates its website on a regular basis, and it plans to continue to do so in the future.

In resolution 1977, the Security Council also recognized the importance of the active engagement of the Committee in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540, including through visits to States at their invitation. In September

2011, the Committee conducted its first visit to a State. Three Committee members and three experts participated in this country visit to the United States. Most recently, 1540 Committee experts have conducted visits in Madagascar and in the Republic of Congo, to discuss several matters of importance relevant to the implementation of the resolution. Other visits to States at their invitation in the near-future are being considered, as well as other opportunities of in-depth dialogue.

Achievements so far and long term perspective on the remaining tasks

The Committee has established itself as an important entity in promoting measures that prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. We have conducted many activities with States and international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and intend to continue efforts in this direction, in the fulfilment of our mandate.

As noted in our last report to the Security Council, the 1540 Committee has documented an upward trend in the progress made by States in implementing measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. While the status of implementation of resolution 1540 steadily continues to improve since the adoption of the resolution in 2004, the Committee also recognizes that much work remains to be done and that the threat remains considerable.

In this context, the 1540 Committee appreciates the establishment of the European Union Centres of Excellence, which offers the perspective of additional synergies

and converging efforts in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 by States. As the March 2012 Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction notes, “the aims and objectives of the CoE Initiative present strong similarities with those of the UNSC Resolution 1540”. We should build on these similarities.

Co-operation between the 1540 Committee and the European Union Centers of Excellence

The 1540 Committee would welcome a regular sharing of information with the European Union on further developments within the European Union Centres of Excellence. The Committee encourages States that have requests for assistance to convey them to us. The Committee also encourages meetings on assistance issues with the participation of the 1540 Committee, between States prepared to offer assistance, other interested States, and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations.

We learned that, in addition to 2 pilot projects and the 19 subsequent projects that have been validated by the EU Centres of Excellence Initiative, other projects are being considered, including in co-operation with international organizations. We would like to express the interest of the Committee and its experts to discuss with the EU Centres of Excellence possible future initiatives which could be considered to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540, including by meeting assistance requests submitted to the Committee. Tailored projects with interested States could be considered, for instance with a focus on specific requirements of resolution 1540.

At the request of the State seeking assistance, these could include: the adaptation of legal frameworks in accordance with the obligation- contained in the resolution- for States to establish appropriate domestic controls and laws, including through the possible development of national control lists in accordance with the resolution.

While the Committee continues to refine its outreach activities, the active participation of all interested parties is an important mechanism to develop our approach to assistance. The Committee stands ready to listen to the queries of and facilitate assistance to each State, however, we also rely on the enthusiasm of regional bodies, such as the EU, to pool resources and allow a more co-ordinated interaction between States requesting assistance and States willing to provide assistance.

In concluding, let me thank you on behalf of the Committee for allowing us to reach out to you through this event. The Committee appreciates your interest in our work, as we look forward to working with you again to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 in mutually agreeable areas.

I thank you.