

**Public Event at the Stimson Center on  
Implementation of 1540 Resolution on the African Continent  
1 May 2012, Washington, DC**

Statement delivered by the 1540 Committee Representative  
Ms. Ruvana Naidoo on behalf of 1540 Committee Chairman  
Mr. Baso Sangqu

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Ambassador Sangqu sends his apologies for not being able to be here. He was called away on urgent business.

On the behalf of the 1540 Committee allow me to extend my gratitude to the hosts for allowing me the opportunity to deliver this presentation. It is a special pleasure to speak here on a topic close to my heart: African efforts to bridge the security/development divide through measures such as resolution 1540 (2004).

We also wish to express our appreciation for the work done by the Stimson Center to facilitate 1540 implementation efforts in different parts of the world such as the Caribbean and Central America. I hope that successes in these sub-regions would be followed by similarly effective outcomes in Africa. It is our belief that a collaborative approach on these outcomes will ensure the best results for all concerned.

On 12 September 2011 the Committee adopted its report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and has submitted it to the United Nations Security Council. According to this document, since 2008 more states have taken measures to implement almost every obligation or recommendation of the resolution. The Committee is quite aware however, that though much has been achieved, much work is to be done. The considerable threat that still remains means that the Committee will continue to promote the implementation of the resolution, with a focus on the practical ways and means to assist States in meeting their obligations under resolution 1540.

African States face particular challenges of their own, in addition to the obligations imposed by resolution 1540. In this spirit, resolution 1977 (2011), which provided for the ten year extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee, takes into account the need for assistance by States. We are aware that just over 20 African States have yet to submit their first report to the Committee. Nevertheless, in recent years we have seen some progress: in 2010 Togo, Uganda and Ivory Coast made their submissions; in 2011 Ethiopia, Gabon and Rwanda did the same.

Taking a long term perspective, the commitments of African States to preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring WMD-related materials are not in doubt. In 1999, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. The status of acceptance of legal obligations by African States with respect to international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation is high, for

example, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). Through the Pelindaba Treaty, African States have established an African nuclear-weapon-free zone. The implementation of these instruments by all States of the region would contribute to meeting their obligations under resolution 1540 to prevent non-state actors from acquiring access to WMD, their means of delivery and related materials.

In line with resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Committee increased its efforts to engage in dialogue on implementation of the resolution with different States including those in Africa. We do not seek to push aside concerns regarding social, economic, environmental and health problems that stand before African States.

In trying to address such challenges, the Committee has undertaken several steps to assist all States that need assistance. This was stated in resolution 1540 (2004) and reinforced in subsequent resolutions, particularly resolution 1977. The Committee and its experts are involved in constant dialogue on implementation of the requirements of resolution 1540 with the authorities of African states, including on assistance issues. Such dialogues take place in various outreach events as well as meetings in New York. Our representatives have participated in a number of recent workshops in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Egypt to raise awareness on the importance of the resolution and

to better understand the needs and problems of African States with regard to implementation of their obligations.

In September 2011, in order to promote transparency the Chair briefed Group of African States at the United Nations on the work of the Committee. As a general approach, the Committee also works with international, regional and subregional organizations to facilitate their member States' implementation of resolution 1540. In this regard, we welcomed the submission in August 2011, of the African Union Commission's point of contact for resolution 1540.

The Committee has made efforts to channel and facilitate assistance to African States by encouraging those who need help to specify their requests using the assistance template suggested by the Committee. Some requests have been received using the template, for example, from Madagascar while other States expressed their need for assistance through their recent reports or by correspondence, such as those from Benin, Republic of Congo, Kenya and Uganda. The Committee has offered to conduct country visits at the invitation of States to discuss the challenges of implementation and requirements for assistance. A country specific approach can be useful also to facilitate ongoing dialogue at the grass roots level of implementation. We have also received invitations to conduct country visits to the Republic of Congo and Madagascar in late May this year.

It is well acknowledged that the issue of development is among the highest priorities for all African countries. One of the threats faced by many African States in this regard is the proliferation of small

arms and light weapons. We must address this issue as one that has a negative impact on socio-economic development. Though most African States do not export or produce materials that fall within the scope of resolution 1540, the risk is that African States could be used as points of transit and trans-shipment for non-State actors that seek to acquire materials related to weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The obligations set up by resolution 1540 (2004) are a concern for all States. No country has immunity from the threat that a non-State actor may exploit its territory for production and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons or their means of delivery. This has been made clear by the interest expressed by several African States who have requested that the Committee, in its match-making role, provide assistance in locating experts that could assist them in closing any gaps that they may have in their domestic controls.

Under such circumstances the Committee sees its task in continuing its dialogue with African States and matching them with potential assistance partners. Some States of the region may wish the Committee to provide them with assistance on legislative expertise, including drafting certain laws and regulations in a manner compatible with their real needs and priorities. In other cases, technical and material assistance is more essential and appropriate to contribute to the implementation of the resolution.

Though implementation of the resolution is a responsibility of States, assistance from the international community can play a major role in enhancing the capability of African States to meet their requirements. Assistance could be further localized and tailored to support more specific country needs, and provided through relevant international organizations, including technical competent bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Regional and sub-regional organizations are helpful in another way to provide forums at which their members can share their experiences and lessons learned. The role of the African Union would be indispensable in assisting States in the implementation of the resolution and we welcome further engagement on this issue. Other regional organizations like the European Union can be a source of assistance, as well as other interested parties, and we appreciate their input.

The efforts of non-governmental organizations and entities are also important. These organizations including the Stimson Center whose involvement and active role in facilitating the process of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is well known and appreciated and they may start providing their expertise and knowledge to enhance the process of implementation of the resolution in Africa. The experiences in CARICOM and Central America in this regard may be of interest in Africa.

Let me conclude by saying that the Committee considers Africa a very important region, as the region that the Chair hails from, and as a region that may require further assistance in the various national efforts on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540. We hope that our joint efforts will contribute to the implementation of the resolution by all States of the continent.

I thank you.