

Message from the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Training for the Points of Contact for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in the Asia-Pacific Region

Qingdao, People's Republic of China, 7 September 2015

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Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the 1540 Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to send my greetings to this gathering, the first of its kind in this region.

I am disappointed not to be there in person, but I am pleased to be represented by my own 'point of contact' from the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the People's Republic of China for hosting this event. I would also like to convey my appreciation to the governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea, and to the European Union for their generous contributions. All are exemplary supporters of Resolution 1540.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I can say, without hyperbole, that supporting the implementation of Resolution 1540 is a priority for the United Nations and an integral element of my Office's mandate.

As Secretary-General Ban has said, resolution 1540 "has become an important component of the global security architecture". It is a vital tool in ensuring that present and future generations are protected from the double threats posed by terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

This region – the Asia-Pacific – continues to play an increasingly vital role in global development. It is a key engine for economic prosperity. Instruments such as Resolution 1540 can play a substantial role in safeguarding that prosperity by helping to build a more secure environment conducive to development.

However, like all of our collective endeavours, the full benefits of 1540 can only be realised through its complete and universal implementation.

As we all know, the full implementation of Resolution 1540 will be challenging and take time. It will require on-going cooperation at national, regional and international levels. It will also necessitate building effective partnerships with key stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector.

By acting as national coordinators for 1540 and liaisons with the 1540 Committee, Points of Contact are an effective mechanism for helping to ensure the resolution's consistent implementation.

I am pleased to note that, to date, eighty-one States have designated Points of Contact, including thirteen from this region.

It is my hope that this meeting will help facilitate the process of implementing Resolution 1540 at all levels, including through the designation of Points of Contact by those States that have yet to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The United Nations Secretariat has played a valuable role in supporting Member States' implementation of Resolution 1540.

We have assisted Member States develop national implementation activities. We have helped mobilised the international community by facilitating enhanced cooperation between international, regional and sub-regional organisations. Through our engagement with civil society, industry and academic institutions, we have opened new and additional resources for the full realisation of Resolution 1540.

These are, of course, roles we intend to fulfil for as long as our assistance is required by Member States.

However, the complete enactment of Resolution 1540 is, ultimately, up to Member States. This includes the development of well-defined next steps for the Resolution's implementation.

In this context, the Comprehensive Review of Resolution 1540, mandated by Security Council Resolution 1977 and due by the end of next year, provides a unique opportunity for Member States to inject their views on the most effective measures to ensure the Resolution's universal and complete implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The potential threat posed by terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction is a real one. Only through collaboration and, in the words of the Secretary-General, reaffirming "our common commitment to achieve the great goals of this resolution", can we confront this threat.

As always, the United Nations stands ready to support Member States however we can.

Thank you.