

**Opening Remarks by Counsellor SHEN Jian
At the Training Course for the 1540 Points of Contact
in the Asia and Pacific Region**

(Xi'an, 7 August 2017)

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, to warmly welcome you to the city of Xi'an for this Training Course.

This event is co-hosted by the MFA of China and the 1540 Committee. It is the second time for China to host such a training course. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to members of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as the UNODA, for all the supports they have provided in organizing this event.

Ever since its adoption in 2004, the UNSCR 1540 through its implementation has effectively raised awareness of the international community on the importance of preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, strengthened capacity-building of individual states in the field of non-proliferation, and enhanced cooperation among states in addressing proliferation risks and challenges.

National points of contact play an important role in implementing UNSCR 1540 through internal coordination at national level and external communication and cooperation at regional and international levels.

I hope the participants will find this training course a useful platform to evaluate current international non-proliferation trend and exchange good experience and best practices in implementing UNSCR 1540, so as to jointly promote non-proliferation efforts in the Asia and Pacific region.

Dear Colleagues,

Preventing the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery bears on international peace, security and stability. It is a common challenge and a major task facing each and every state and an important and integral part of global governance.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of the international community, global consensus on non-proliferation has been built up, relevant mechanisms have been constantly improved and the cooperation in this area has been promoted steadily.

However, grave challenges still remain on the non-proliferation front. Certain hot-spot issues related drag on and defy an easy solution. The authority, universality and effectiveness of the international non-proliferation mechanisms are in need to be further enhanced. The economic globalization and the rapid development of the information technology, have lowered the bar for the acquisition and proliferation of the sensitive items and technologies. There is increased risk of non-State actors, terrorists in particular, acquiring WMD and related materials.

In the context of an evolving international security situation, how to properly respond to the non-proliferation challenges to maintain the international and regional security, is an important task facing the international community. In China's perspective, the efforts should be promoted in the following areas:

First, to establish an enabling international and regional security environment. The issue of non-proliferation is highly complex. Historical grievances, regional conflicts, security concerns and terrorism, among other factors, have made it more difficult to find a solution. The fundamental way to address the challenge is to discard the Cold War mentality and double-standards practices, adopt a new concept of common, integrated, cooperative and sustainable security, so as to eliminate the factors that drive proliferation by building security architecture that features fairness, justice, joint contributions and shared benefits.

Secondly, to consolidate and develop the international non-proliferation regime. As the years passed by, the international non-proliferation regime based on NPT, CWC and BWC as well as UNSCRs such as 1540, have made great contribution to maintaining the international peace, security and stability. A task of priority is to further enhance the authority, effectiveness and universality of the relevant mechanisms, and give full play to the advantage of the multilateralism, and building a firm and effective the non-proliferation network.

Thirdly, to address the proliferation concerns through dialogue and cooperation. The history has approved that confrontation and pressure can only lead to the

escalation and spilling over of conflicts, leading to further exacerbating the risk of proliferation. Only through dialogue and cooperation, can the proliferation concerns be effectively addressed and sustaining peace and stability be realized.

Fourthly, to strike a balance between security and development. The international efforts on non-proliferation can only be promoted in a sustainable way on the basis that the relationship between security and development be properly handled in a balanced and fair way. While fulfilling their non-proliferation obligations, countries are entitled to peaceful uses of the relevant science and technologies. The legitimate right of countries for peaceful use of science and technologies should not be in any way restricted under the excuse of non-proliferation, while all countries should sincerely honor their non-proliferation obligations in the peaceful use activities.

Dear Colleagues,

Last year, the 1540 Committee successfully carried out a comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution and made recommendations on the way forward. The UNSCR 2325 was adopted unanimously by the Security Council thereafter. The future work of the 1540 Committee should continue to focus on the issue of preventing proliferation by non-State actors and should be conducive to maintaining State's leading role in non-proliferation and the Committee's facilitating and coordinating role in the implementation of the resolution, in order to guarantee the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the resolution. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the 1540 Committee should be improved, in order to strengthen the capacity-building in developing countries for the implementation of the resolution and enhance the overall level of global non-proliferation efforts.

Dear Colleagues,

As underlined in the keynote speech delivered by Chinese President XI Jinping at the UN Office at Geneva in January 2017, China remains unchanged in its commitment to multilateralism. China firmly opposes to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and strictly implements its non-proliferation obligation. China also actively participates in international non-proliferation cooperation, and attaches great importance to and support the role of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. China is

ready to work with the international community to make further contributions to promoting international non-proliferation process and safeguarding world peace and security.

In closing, I wish the training course a complete success and I hope all participants and colleagues will enjoy their stay in Xi'an.

Thank you!