

**Briefing by Ambassador Baso Sangqu on the work of the Committee
established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

14 November 2011

Introduction

I now wish to speak on behalf of the 1540 Committee. Our main developments since the last joint briefing in May 2011 have been the adoption of our report on compliance with resolution 1540 (2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements as mandated in Security Council resolution 1810 (2008), as well as the adoption of the Tenth Programme of Work before addressing other recent activities of the Committee.

The 2011 Report to the Security Council

The 1540 Committee adopted its Report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) on 12 September 2011, and has submitted it to the Security Council. Notably, the report finds that since 2008, more States have taken more measures to implement almost every obligation or recommendation in the resolution. While these trends parallel those seen in the reports by the 1540 Committee in 2006 and 2008, the 1540 Committee remains aware that much work remains to be done, and that the urgency of the threat remains considerable. Therefore, the Committee recommended that outreach to promote understanding of the resolution should continue, with a focus on the practical ways and means to help States take further steps to implement the resolution.

The Tenth Programme of Work

On 17 June 2011, the 1540 Committee approved its Tenth Programme of Work for the period until 31 May 2012. The Programme of Work incorporates the new mandate and tasks for the 1540 Committee found in resolution 1977 (2011). The Programme of Work includes detailed objectives and tasks for

the four Working Groups of the 1540 Committee, as well as procedures on how the 1540 Committee and the Working Groups will operate.

Recent activities of the 1540 Committee

Taking note of the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) last April and the Tenth Programme of Work thereafter, the 1540 Committee has conducted activities focused on implementation, co-operation with international organisations, assistance, and outreach and transparency since the joint-briefing in May.

Implementation

Although the 1540 Committee did not receive any new first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during the last six months, it did receive additional information on implementation of the resolution from Croatia, Peru and Qatar. In September 2011, France submitted a national action plan on the implementation of the resolution. Many other States have provided additional information to the 1540 Committee or its experts during country-specific dialogues and other activities.

In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Committee increased its efforts to engage in dialogue with States on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2011). Based on a December 2010 invitation from the United States to conduct a country visit and subsequent exchanges, the 1540 Committee visited Washington, DC from 12-16 September 2011, where the Committee and experts met with officials from nine government departments and several other government bodies. The Committee and experts were briefed on the current national measures to implement the resolution, measures they intend to take, and their perspective on effective practices. The 1540 Committee will work with the host country on preparing a draft report on the visit. We can also reveal that since May, the Committee has also received letters of invitation for country visits to Albania, Croatia and Madagascar. The timing and other modalities for these visits remain under discussion.

The 1540 Committee experts have engaged in other country-specific missions, for example, to Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico (in cooperation with the Organization of American States, "OAS"), and anticipate that the 1540 Committee will receive more requests for these type of missions in the future.

Assistance

The 1540 Committee continues to work on collecting and matching State requests for assistance with offers of assistance, and on possible next steps in its assistance efforts. Since the previous briefing, the Committee has received official information on assistance requests from Armenia, Guyana, and Mexico and on offers of assistance or the status of assistance programs from France, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal, and the United States. The Committee updated a consolidated list of all of its formal requests for assistance, which we agreed to share with the Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group at a meeting in Paris, France on 10 October 2011.

The 1540 Committee has information on many more assistance requests made informally to it by national authorities or where States have made requests through other channels, such as in statements at meetings of State Parties of key nonproliferation treaties or conventions or submissions to other UN bodies. Committee members currently have additional assistance guidelines on match-making activities under consideration that addresses procedures to conduct match-making for assistance requests and to turn informal requests into formal requests to the 1540 Committee.

Cooperation with International, Regional, and Sub-regional Organizations

Since the last briefing, the 1540 Committee has engaged with many of the international, regional, and sub-regional organizations that could provide assistance to in the implementation of resolution 1540. The Committee continues to pursue its work with multilateral organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Among other things, the Committee:

- Received new information on the status of **points of contact** from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and a joint appointment by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UNODC to a post that may help with implementation of the resolution in the region;
- Agreed to allow experts assist the Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) in the development of a BWC implementation guide;
- Facilitated the development of potential recommendations on combating proliferation financing with the members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
- Contributed to the development of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia; and,
- 1540 Committee members and experts participated 1540-related or 1540-specific activities, with other international, regional and sub-regional organisations and entities such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA);
- Received a new commitment to its international efforts through a United States-European Union Joint Statement on 1540 issued at a 23 October 2011 side-event on the resolution organized by the

Government of Poland on the margins of the General Assembly First Committee.

Outreach and Transparency

The 1540 Committee and its group of experts participated in outreach events at the international, regional or sub-regional levels, to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 over the last six months. These included a regional workshop in Riyadh, an international export control conference in Singapore, a workshop on Promoting the Global Instruments of Nonproliferation and Disarmament in New York, the Meeting of the Heads of Special Security Services held in St. Petersburg, a workshop on nuclear safeguards and verification in Aix-en-Provence, a workshop on potential nuclear security partnerships in Southeast Asia in Vienna, a Counter Illicit Trafficking Workshop in Tanzania, and an international symposium on bio-security and bio-safety trends and solutions in Milan.

The 1540 Committee continues to develop its media outreach strategy as well. During the country visit to the United States, the representative of the Chairman made a press statement and participated in a press conference about the visit. She also spoke at a meeting with civil society organizations that included participants from the media. This was done at the request of the host country.

In order to promote transparency, the Chair briefed a September meeting of the Africa Group on the work of the Committee. Information Notes on events have been posted on the Committee web site. We have also begun to re-design the Committee web site this month, with the support of UNODA and the Department of Public Information.

Conclusion

Finally, the Committee is discussing two important tasks in line with resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee intends to present recommendations for the

Committee and for the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee remains engaged in discussions on these recommendations, as these will help define the support capabilities available to the Committee with its new 10 year mandate. The Committee also has begun the process of drafting an Annual Report to review the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in line with the requirements of operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011). Completion of these two tasks will be a major focus of the work of the 1540 Committee over the next few months.

Thank you.