



1540 Committee

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

**Statement by Ambassador Oh Joon, Chair of the 1540 Committee,
at the United Nations Security Council Joint Briefing of the
Committee Established Pursuant to Resolutions 1267 and 2083 and
the Committees Established Pursuant to Resolutions 1373 and 1540
27 November 2013**

Mr. President,

I am privileged to report to the Security Council as Chair of the 1540 Committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Security Council, and the Secretariat for the support extended to the 1540 Committee.

Guided by the Twelfth Program of Work, submitted to the Council on May 31, I am pleased to note steady progress in the implementation of resolution 1540 since our last joint meeting on May 10.

Since then, the 1540 Committee and its experts participated in 46 outreach events organised by various entities and on the main thematic areas related to resolution 1540. These events provided opportunities to enhance the awareness of resolution 1540 globally and, in many cases, to facilitate assistance to help States strengthen national capacities to implement the resolution.

The value of direct interaction with States was demonstrated in the visits to Grenada, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Korea. Also bilateral discussions have been conducted specifically to develop voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) for Armenia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament (UNODA). This once again showed the importance of the role played by regional organizations in implementing the resolution.

Croatia and Poland have conducted a novel peer review process. This process enabled the States concerned to analyse their implementation of resolution 1540 in a rigorous and frank manner to identify areas where improvements were needed and gaps closed. It also facilitated the direct sharing of experience and effective practices. I look forward to hearing a briefing from the representatives of Croatia and Poland in this regard. The Committee and member states will be able to draw on this new initiative.

In July, the Committee approached sixteen non-reporting States in an effort towards universal reporting. To date, 2 more States provided their initial reports bringing the number of non-reporting States down to 22. Also Committee members and experts have used other opportunities at outreach events and during the meetings of the First Committee to engage the non-reporting States.

Facilitating “matchmaking” between assistance requests and offers remains a priority for the Committee. Assistance requests and related matters are discussed at almost all outreach events including the Global Partnership Working Group meetings. Since the last meeting, Japan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) offered assistance to Kyrgyz Republic’s requests in legislative and export control areas. The United States continues its financial support for the Regional Coordinator position of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The UNODC offered legislative assistance and training of criminal justice officials for CARICOM. The 1540 Committee’s group of experts has improved the compilation of assistance requests and offers, enabling a more systematic approach to assistance matchmaking.

Just days after I took over my role as the Chair of the Committee, I gave a keynote speech at a special session at the 2013 Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on October 7. This direct interaction with the legislators from around the world contributed to raising awareness and opening a new stage for high-level cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the IPU.

Since May 10, we also received new notifications of twenty-four points of contact (POC), bringing the total to 65 States and 15 international and regional organisations. In particular, INTERPOL, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) have newly registered as assistance providers.

One of the key tasks that the Security Council requested of the Committee in resolution 1977 was to compile various effective practices that States have employed to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery in accordance with resolution 1540. On 6 November, I wrote to all Member States and international and regional organizations (IROs) seeking advice of their effective practices in implementing resolution 1540. I would like to appeal to Member States and IROs to be forthcoming in sharing their effective practices, so that we can develop a useful online resource to support the implementation of resolution 1540.

On September 27, the importance of resolution 1540 as a key non-proliferation instrument was once again demonstrated by resolution 2118 (2013) with regard to chemical weapons in Syria. The resolution, while determining the use of chemical weapons as a threat to international peace and security, decided that Member States should inform the Security Council of any violation of resolution 1540 in order that necessary measures can be taken. This decision adds to the importance of the efforts directed towards universal and full implementation of resolution 1540.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by reiterating my commitment to seek the full implementation of resolution 1540. As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of this resolution next year, there is a substantial agenda before us. I look for the continued active cooperation of all stakeholders in addressing every aspect of the resolution to prevent WMD proliferation by non-State actors.

Thank you.

End.