



**Contributions of the United Nations
in Implementing Resolution 1540**

By

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I am very pleased to be here on behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for this joint event of the Organization of American States, Stanley Foundation and Stimson Center—three organizations that have long been close allies of the United Nations in assisting to implement Security Council resolution 1540.

When this resolution was adopted in 2004, it was widely viewed as a response to the tragic terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. Today, it continues to advance the goals of preventing the proliferation and terrorist acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Yet its true significance may be even greater than has been commonly understood.

This is one reason why I am honoured to participate in the launching today of a remarkable document produced by the Stimson Center and Stanley Foundation, entitled *Southern Flows: WMD Nonproliferation in the Developing World*, a comprehensive study conducted in six regional settings.

The key conclusion of this study, based on years of research, is that development and security are mutually reinforcing goals. By introducing several years ago the concept of "dual benefit", the Stimson Center has identified a new approach for promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 in many countries—an approach recognizing the multidimensional nature of security.

In short, investments in export and border controls—as well as improvements in physical security of sensitive materials—not only contribute to regional and national security, but also help in improving the wider environment for development, by promoting stability and confidence conducive to growing economies, and by reducing threats to public health.

I believe this helps to explain why support for resolution 1540 has been growing worldwide. The importance of the various controls identified in that resolution was a prominent theme of the Open Debate in the United Nations Security Council on 7 May, commemorating the 10th anniversary of that resolution. More than 60 countries took part in this debate, which also testifies to the international recognition the resolution has earned.

In my remarks today, I wish to address some specific ways that the United Nations and its Office for Disarmament Affairs have been contributing to the larger process of promoting the implementation of resolution 1540.

Our contributions have been on three dimensions—in facilitating implementation by individual Member States, in building cooperation between intergovernmental organizations, and in pursuing partnerships with civil society and industry.

Member States. One of the goals of this resolution has been to encourage States to submit national reports on measures taken or planned to implement it, and this is one area where our office has been quite active.

To date, 90 percent of UN Member States have submitted national reports on measures taken or planned to implement resolution 1540. Following a call by the 1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Oh Joon of the Republic of Korea, UNODA has undertaken a major initiative aimed at non-reporting States to achieve universal reporting in 2014. Through our Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, based in Lomé, UNODA has organized three workshops during the spring to encourage non-reporting countries to

submit a first report: one workshop for French-speaking countries in March in Gabon; one for English-speaking countries in April in South Africa; and a last one for Portuguese-speaking countries in June in Togo.

The dedicated work of those involved in these activities testifies to something unique about the work of the 1540 Committee, which is often confused with being a sanctions committee. Quite the contrary, this committee has an impressive record of helping States to serve their national and regional interests. In some ways, I think it's fair to say that they have helped to open up a different perspective on the meaning of security.

This series of workshops has indeed been quite revealing about the multidimensional nature of security in these countries. In most cases, the 21 non-reporting countries are Least Developed Countries facing serious economic or social difficulties. They do not feel particularly affected by WMD proliferation, nor do they possess such weapons. They are overwhelmed with other problems and priorities. Yet they are increasingly recognizing that WMD proliferation is threatening them too and that they share a common interest in preventive measures. Given that small arms and other conventional arms have caused so much death and suffering at home, such countries can readily grasp the damage that weapons of mass destruction might cause.

The fact that 172 out of 193 Member States have already presented implementation reports is itself an achievement. The Committee and its Group of experts provide capacity-building and assistance in implementing this resolution, notably by serving as an intermediary between assistance givers and countries in need of assistance. One promising trend is the preparation by Member States of voluntary national action plans—in addition to their national reports—mapping out their priorities for implementing the resolution.

According to the Committee, the number of States that have implemented legislative measures to prohibit the proliferation-related activities of non-state actors has more than doubled over the last decade. The Committee has recorded so far over 30,000 reported measures that had been taken by States in implementing the resolution's key requirements.

For its part, UNODA supports the 1540 Committee and its experts in several areas. Working together as a united team, we jointly organize or support regional workshops—often in cooperation with international, regional or sub-regional organizations—to encourage Member States to elaborate regionally-coordinated approaches to bolster their national 1540 efforts. Such meetings have recently taken place in Addis Ababa, Astana, Belgrade, Kingston, Kyiv, Minsk, and Zagreb. More than 120 countries participated in UNODA-supported events in 2013-14.

We also support country visits by the 1540 Committee and its experts—visits resulting in greater insights on how the resolution is being carried out and providing an opportunity to explain why implementation is important. In 2013-14, country visits and country-specific dialogues were held in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Grenada, Niger, Republic of Korea, and Trinidad and Tobago.

My office also facilitated a 1540 Peer Review by Croatia and Poland in 2013 to identify effective practices. This operation took the form of extensive experience-sharing dialogues between officials and experts from ministries and agencies from both States. Many

additional countries are now considering undertaking a similar operation and we look forward to helping them to identify their best practices by comparing their 1540 efforts.

We also assist States in preparing voluntary national 1540 implementation action plans, as seen in the assistance provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Kyrgyz Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Uzbekistan in the past year.

Intergovernmental Organizations. With respect to the role of intergovernmental organizations, several examples illustrate how the 1540 Committee cooperates closely with numerous regional, sub-regional and international organizations, including the other Security Council committees related to counter-terrorism.

I should note that most of our assistance discussed above were carried out in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations, in particular the OSCE in Europe and OAS in the Americas. In addition, many of these events involved the participation of other international organizations, in particular, the IAEA, OPCW and WHO. This clearly demonstrates the growing international cooperation and engagement in this field.

While the concept of a “nuclear security culture” is already well-established and defined by the IAEA, an overarching security culture in all areas related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and proliferation-sensitive materials as covered by resolution 1540 has yet to be created. The experience of the IAEA in this area provides a useful basis for much needed additional work in developing an integrated and multidisciplinary security culture within the scope of resolution 1540. In the past two years, my Office has co-organized several events in support of such efforts, including a regional workshop for Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova on this subject last November, and follow-up events are also planned.

In terms of how our work has been received, I am pleased to note that UN assistance in implementing this resolution has specifically been recognized in the communiqués of two Nuclear Security Summits (in 2010 and 2012) and in UN Security Council resolution 1977, adopted in 2011.

Civil Society and industry. Another important focus of UNODA’s work is to build partnerships with civil society, industry and other professional communities to support international and national efforts to comply with the resolution. We have made some good progress here as well.

In January 2013, we convened a very successful forum on “Opportunities for Engagement.” Representatives of forty-five non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, think tanks and industries from throughout the world took part in this first-ever Civil Society Forum in support of resolution 1540. Also participating were several international and regional organizations and entities and observers from five Member States. In February in New Delhi, a UNODA-sponsored civil society workshop—organized by India’s Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and King’s College London—contributed to the identification of effective 1540 practices.

Since 2012, my Office has partnered with Germany in the “Wiesbaden Process”—a series of conferences on a specific non-proliferation topic once a year, to build sustainable

cooperation between the industry and the United Nations. A third conference is planned for Frankfurt in November with a focus on “Governance and Compliance Management.”

With respect to the role of financial institutions in 1540-related activities, UNODA organized a session at the 2013 Summit of the Union of Arab Banks in Vienna—an event that promoted awareness of the responsibilities of banks to prevent WMD proliferation financing. We see an important potential in this partnership.

In addition, I am pleased that UNODA and the University of Georgia’s Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) are producing an electronic journal, *The 1540 Compass*, devoted to the resolution. Six issues have been published since 2012.

Overall, nearly 100 private sector associations or firms and more than 70 NGOs, think tanks and academic institutions participated in UNODA-supported or UNODA-organized events in the last two years.

Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Now, given that we are meeting today at the Organization for American States, I would also like to mention some additional 1540 UNODA activities implemented through our Lima Regional Centre, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose acronym is UNLIREC.

The Centre has undertaken a 1540 Assistance Package for the Caribbean region whose first phase has focused on Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. UNLIREC’s assistance includes an analysis of the legal framework in each country relating to resolution 1540, followed by recommendations and assistance to implement the suggested measures. The Centre is working with Grenada to review legislation and will collaborate with South Africa to deliver assistance in the establishment of national control lists. Studies and bilateral assistance will also soon be underway in Belize, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

A second phase should include additional Caribbean countries in 2015. The main partners in this project are CARICOM, the 1540 Committee Experts, the OAS, civil society organizations such as VERTIC and NPS-Global, and research and academic institutions such as Stimson Centre and CITS at the University of Georgia, as well as key international organizations including the IAEA, OPCW and the International Maritime Organization.

I am also pleased to report that UNODA, through its Regional Centre in Peru, will organize this November a 1540 regional workshop focused on physical protection and accounting issues, which will be the first such workshop of its kind, with participants from the entire South American continent.

Conclusion. Now it goes without saying that our common goal at the United Nations is not limited to any particular region. And our goal with respect to resolution 1540 is to assist in its effective implementation—everywhere.

There is a growing consensus that the international community needs to stop the proliferation of these horrible weapons, to enhance everyone’s protection, safety and security. Complacency has no place in face of such a gravest danger.

In a press statement for the 10th anniversary, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized that, in the decade since its adoption, resolution 1540 has become an important component of the global security architecture. And he concluded with this call: “I urge all States and stakeholders to reaffirm their common commitment to achieve the great goals of this resolution and to devote their utmost efforts to save present and future generations from the double threat posed by terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.”

It is my deepest hope that these efforts, combined with other activities undertaken under multilateral treaties, will bring us closer to the achievement of an even greater common goal—a world entirely free of all weapons of mass destruction.