

Check against delivery

**Implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006): The role  
of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in support of the  
activities of the 1540 Committee**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, I wish to thank the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States for the invitation to participate in this Special Meeting on Combating the Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons, their Delivery systems, and Related Materials. I look forward to the interesting, thought provoking ideas and discussions that will, I am sure, be generated by the individual presentations.

Events in the last few years have heightened the international community's concern about the possible threat of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction and it has become quite clear that no country, irrespective of its defense and other capacities, is totally immune from the possibility of such an attack.

The unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Resolution 1540 (2004) was a direct response to this concern and represents a major step forward for the entire global framework of non-proliferation undertakings and in preventing the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Indeed, never before has the issue of non-proliferation been dealt with at such a comprehensive level, and never before has the issue of countering terrorism globally been dealt with in respect of its nexus with weapons of mass destruction and related materials or technology. UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) is important precisely because it fills in these major gaps.

This makes meeting the requirements set out in UNSC resolution 1540, of putting in place national legal and regulatory measures and commitment to international cooperation on non-proliferation, all the more vital. It is obvious that this will require a long-term effort at the global, regional, sub-regional and national level.

The mandate of the Department for Disarmament Affairs includes the provision of relevant support to Member States on many areas covered in UNSC resolution 1540 (2004). Broadly, DDA provides substantive support for the activities of the United Nations in the area of weapons of mass destruction, including the threat of use in terrorist acts. DDA closely follows all developments and trends with regard to weapons of mass destruction in all their aspects in order to keep the Secretary-General fully informed and to provide information to Member States and the international community. DDA supports, and participates in multilateral efforts to strengthen the international norm on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and, in this connection cooperates with relevant intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Preparatory

Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom). DDA feeds into the UN Secretariat's policy formulation and information process advising and informing the Secretary-General on non-proliferation and disarmament issues as well as supporting him in his advocacy role and any specific functions he has been assigned through international instruments and decisions taken by their respective States parties.

Since the inception of the 1540 Committee, DDA has provided substantive support to the Committee, including support for all aspects related to the work of the experts serving the Committee, ensuring the flow of communication between the Secretariat, the Committee and the 1540 experts, as well as the maintenance of databases and the Committee's website. DDA also provides support for the Committee's outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation activities. The latter support has increased with the extension of the mandate of the Committee for a further two years with the adoption of resolution 1673 (2006) in April.

Resolution 1673 (2006) reiterates the objectives of resolution 1540. By deciding that the Committee shall intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) through a work programme, which shall include the compilation of information on the status of States' implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), it placed particular emphasis on outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation, and which shall address in particular all aspects of paragraphs 1 and 2 of that resolution, as well as of paragraph 3 which encompasses (a) accountability, (b) physical protection, (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such export and trans-shipment. Furthermore, the resolution in operative paragraph 5 (a) encourages the pursuit of ongoing dialogue between the 1540 Committee and States on the full implementation of resolution 1540 including on further actions needed from States to that end and on technical assistance needed and offered and (b) invites the 1540 to explore with States and international, regional and subregional organizations experience-sharing and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), and the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The programme of work adopted by the Committee for October through to end September 2007, reflects these priorities and spells out in more detail what the Committee will strive to achieve. The focus will be on two major areas of work. Firstly, by increasing its knowledge by examining the information provided by Member States on the status of implementation of SCR 1540 in their respective countries; including through encouraging more Member States to report and encouraging all Member States to share additional information; and by further examination of information on the status of States' implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004). Secondly, through outreach, dialogue, assistance and co-operation to promote implementation of all aspects of SCR 1540, including through (i) outreach, including awareness raising about the obligations and requirements of SCR 1540; (ii) tailored dialogue with States and regions about full implementation of the Resolution (iii) its role in technical assistance, (iv) identification of national practices; and (v) co-operation, including developing relations with international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

DDA - through its Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa - has thus far provided substantive, organizational, administrative and logistical support for three regional outreach seminars. These seminars have all

sought to incorporate as many components of the 1540 resolution and Committee's programme of work as possible.

The first of these seminars, "Implementing UNSC Resolution 1540 in the Asia-Pacific", took place in Beijing, China on 12-13 July and was co-sponsored by Australia, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the European Union. Sixty-seven participants mainly from the region as well as international organizations attended the seminar. The countries invited comprised a mix of those that have and have not submitted national reports to the 1540 Committee. DDA, in collaboration with the Chairman of the Committee, the Committee's experts and the host government, devised an agenda that covered the various components of implementation requirements, including information on the status of implementation, as well as promoting an interactive exchange on assistance and cooperation, experience sharing and lessons learned in preparing national reports and on implementing resolution 1540. Feedback from participants and the content of exchanges clearly indicate the need for follow up on a subregional basis, taking into account particular priorities, challenges and needs of the countries concerned.

The second of these regional seminars took place in Accra, Ghana, from 9-10 November. Like the Beijing seminar, it was the first seminar of its kind in the region and therefore followed a similar format. Only 18 States, or 34 percent of the continent, have provided first reports and therefore the seminar brought together a mix of those states that have and have not submitted national reports to the 1540 Committee in order to encourage those states facing similar challenges and national priorities to work together and to learn from each other. Other sessions at the seminar included the provision of information on implementing measures related to accounting, securing, and the physical protection of nuclear, chemical and biological items, including related materials and means of delivery as well as on export and border controls, opportunities for and the setting of priorities for assistance and cooperation. Representatives of international organizations – the IAEA, OPCW, and World Customs Organization - along with assistance providing or donor states – participated to share their specialized expertise and experience. The seminar was co-sponsored by the European Union and Norway and was also attended by representatives of regional and subregional organizations.

The third seminar, as you are aware, was held on 27-28 November in Lima, Peru, for Latin American and Caribbean participants. It was co-sponsored by the European Union and Spain and aimed to build upon the work of two earlier seminars, held in Argentina last year and in Guatemala in 2004. As a result the format differed slightly from Beijing and Accra seminars. I will not go into too much detail on the actual seminar, its participants and conclusions as Ricardo Morote from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations will address this in more detail.

Participants at the Lima seminar noted that there had been certain progress in the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. With regard to reporting there are still nine countries that have yet to submit their reports as required by the resolution as well as twelve countries that need to supply additional information requested by the 1540 Committee. Several States indicated their intention to submit their first reports to the 1540 Committee no later than January 2007.

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Unlike some other regions in the world - particularly in Africa, Middle East and the Pacific - it is clear, from the exchanges and feedback on reporting and other aspects of implementation at the Lima seminar, that the need for large regional meetings for outreach and awareness promotion in the region has now passed. The sub regions in Latin America and the Caribbean are at different levels of implementation and while a large amount of commonality exists, there is a need to address some challenges at the sub regional level among experts.

This progression from outreach and awareness raising to targeted dialogue, cooperation and assistance was anticipated in UNSC resolution 1673 and reflected in the Committee's current program of work. Sub regional activities and other implementation efforts will require a more focused approach, grouping those with common challenges and needs, responding to the needs for capacity-building, helping with assistance requests and technical cooperation. DDA has, in its planning to further support the activities of the Committee, already started fund raising for further implementation activities, particularly for sub regional activities in 2007 and 2008 and trusts that we will be in a position, through the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the generous support of donors, to assist those countries offering to host meetings as well as to facilitate capacity building and other activities aimed at achieving the full implementation of resolution 1540.

Experience has shown that priorities – national and regional - can only come from the countries, sub-regions and regions themselves but in order to set priorities they need to operate in an environment that makes them practical, realistic and achievable. This is where cooperation and assistance is indispensable and where partnerships – bilateral, regional and global – are crucial to success. DDA has the advantage and responsibility of being a neutral facilitator and therefore well placed to bring states and relevant role players together, to assist in the initiation of dialogue and cooperation and to draw on the “ground presence” of UN offices and agencies to reach all parts of the globe, particularly those developing states and regions that face the greatest challenges.

DDA has a proud record of assisting States with implementation aspects across a broad field of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and will continue – within our means and requisite funding - to provide the support and assistance required to help States to fulfil their obligations in terms of UNSC resolution 1540.

Thank you.

