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At a Side Event of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

“International cooperation for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)”

Organized by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

8 May 2014 – New York
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), I would like to express my gratitude to the Permanent Missions of Spain and Mexico to the United Nations, for organizing this important event.

I take this opportunity to share with you a video-message from the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Secretary-General’s video message

Together with multilateral treaties to eliminate, or prevent the proliferation of, nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, UN Security Council resolution 1540 has become an important component of the current global security architecture. Ten years have passed since the adoption of resolution 1540 which requires all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to acquire or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. The current session of the NPT Preparatory Committee offers an excellent occasion to place UNSCR 1540 into perspective. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and UNSCR resolution 1540 complements the treaty by requiring States to focus their non-proliferation efforts specifically on non-State actors and terrorists.

Spain and Mexico are important supporters of the implementation of resolution 1540. They are actively implementing this resolution in a national context and successfully promoting its objectives regionally and internationally. Mexico developed a national action plan to implement the key requirements of the resolution. This plan was an important result of the OAS/CICTE-UNODA pilot project on Physical Protection and Accounting of CBRN Materials. Spain hosted the Joint Spanish-Mexican Seminar held in Madrid in January 2014 where they not only discussed their effective 1540 implementation practices but also shared their lessons learned with representatives from Colombia, Panama, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. UNODA is proud to have supported both initiatives.

The non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is crucial for increasing the collective security of the international community and the security of Member States and their citizens. Supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 is a key priority of the United Nations
Office for Disarmament Affairs. UNODA is proud to count the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS) as reliable partners. Together we are making and are determined to make meaningful contributions to the 1540 implementation efforts. For this reason, we view our support to the 1540 Committee as an integral part of our overall activities, and we focus our work in three key areas:

The first area is facilitating national implementation efforts of Member States including the promotion of regionally coordinated approaches to implement resolution 1540 (2004). This includes practical support to Member States in developing and managing their voluntary national implementation action plans and capacity-building roadmaps. Since 2006, UNODA has organized, co-organized or supported 38 regional workshops with the participation of some 180 States, 50 international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as numerous civil society entities. UNODA extends an offer to all of your Governments to cooperate in the organization of such events.

The second key area of UNODA focus is the promotion of cooperation among international, regional and sub-regional organizations (IROs). UNODA organized a series of meetings this April in Vienna. Staff and experts from over twenty-five international and regional organizations Secretariats, including the EU, OSCE and OAS, discussed how to enhance cooperation and shared their effective practices. This network of international and regional organizations is focusing on the identification of synergies that can be exploited for the benefit of their respective Member States.

And thirdly, UNODA is committed to building effective partnerships with key stakeholders such as civil society, academia, industry and NGOs in support of the implementation of resolution 1540. In 2013, UNODA co-organized with the Government of Austria the first-ever Civil Society Forum in Vienna, which involved the participation of 45 civil society organizations from different regions. As the Secretary-General has expressed “Those voices, be they from nongovernmental organizations, academia or industry, have much to contribute”. The forum facilitated a “whole society” approach in support of national and international 1540 implementation activities.
Our support for implementing this resolution is made possible by the generous voluntary contributions of Member States as well as the European Union and the Carnegie Corporation. Security Council Resolution 1977 (2011) encouraged States that are able to do so to provide resources to UNODA to assist States in implementing their 1540 obligations. I would like to encourage your Governments to consider providing voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations for this worthy purpose.

In closing, I wish to once again, express my gratitude to Spain and Mexico for this initiative and to assure you that UNODA will remain an active partner in supporting national, regional and international efforts to advance the implementation of resolution 1540. I thank you for your attention.