Next Steps for 1540

by

Virginia Gamba
Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNSCR 1540 Ten Years On: Challenges and Opportunities
Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

London
5 November 2014
Mr. Under-Secretary of State Ellwood, Members and Experts of the 1540 Committee, and distinguished guests.

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), I wish to express my sincere thanks for this opportunity to address this important meeting held in the historic Chatham House.

My Office is pleased to cooperate closely with King’s College London in holding this event.

In addition to representatives of civil society organizations, academic institutions, international and regional organizations, who accepted to take part in this workshop, I would like to greet the presence of officials from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the UN Security Council's 1540 Committee, represented here by two of its Members, Jordan and the Republic of Korea, and Messrs. Zawar Haider Abidi, Michael Rosenthal and Terence Taylor in their capacity as members of the Committee’s group of experts.

2014 marks the 10th Anniversary of resolution 1540. This anniversary and today’s workshop are good opportunities to reflect on the achievements and remaining challenges in its implementation over its first decade of implementation. And above all, today’s meeting offers a chance to consider what should be the next steps to intensify the implementation of resolution 1540 worldwide.

The open debate that the UN Security Council held on 7 May to mark this 10th anniversary provided a positive overview on the current appraisal of the resolution by Member States. More than 60 speakers took part in this debate, a significant participation which was a testimony to the importance that the international community granted resolution 1540. This debate clearly underlines the strong international consensus in support for resolution 1540 and its objectives. Nevertheless, much remains to be done to accurately measure the actual level of implementation of resolution 1540 and to accelerate the current pace of implementation.

Let me now outline for you the work and priorities that the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations is performing to help give shape and substance to the next steps towards a fuller implementation of the resolution. UNODA considers its support to the work of the 1540 Committee to be an integral and important part of its overall activities. Currently,
UNODA focuses on **three key areas**, which have direct relevance for the practical implementation of resolution 1540: facilitating national implementation; enhancing cooperation between international, regional and sub-regional organizations; and building effective partnerships with all key stakeholders including civil society and industry.

**Key area 1 (National Implementation).**

Supporting national efforts to implement resolution 1540 is the first area of work for UNODA, while these national efforts represent the cornerstone in the 1540 architecture. In cooperation with the 1540 Committee and relevant international and regional organizations, UNODA will continue, as its top priority, to assist interested Member States in their national implementation activities, including through supporting country-specific visits and dialogues as well as other activities, with the objectives of capacity-building, facilitation of the provision for technical assistance and identification and dissemination of effective implementation practices.

UNODA helps countries in the preparation of their voluntary national implementation action plans as encouraged by resolution 1977, adopted in 2011. Over the last two years, this was the case for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyz Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. In a few days, a UNODA-supported workshop will launch Colombia’s new voluntary implementation plan. Next month, another meeting is scheduled to help Panama develop such a voluntary plan.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided pro-active support to a first 1540 Peer Review by Croatia and Poland in 2013, which took the form of experience-sharing dialogues between officials and experts from both countries dealing with the practical application of the resolution.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs also organizes and supports regional workshops to enhance national implementation efforts by allowing States to share with other countries of the region their experiences and to elaborate regionally-coordinated approaches to bolster their national 1540 implementation efforts. Since 2012, over 120 countries have participated in these UNODA-organized meetings including those held in Addis Ababa, Astana, Belgrade, Kingston, Kyiv, Minsk, and Zagreb.

Our Office also uses the capabilities of its three regional disarmament centres. Earlier this year, UNODA and UNREC, its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,
organized a series of workshops for States that never reported on their 1540 implementation efforts, one for French-speaking States in Libreville, a second one for English-speaking countries in Pretoria and a third one for Portuguese-speaking countries in Lomé. These meetings provided support and assistance to encourage these countries to finally submit a first report on their implementation of 1540 obligations.

Our Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima 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. Studies and bilateral assistance will also soon be underway in Belize, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Key Area 2 (Enhancing Cooperation between Inter-governmental Organizations).**

The **second key area** of UNODA 1540-related activities is to bring together relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations (IROs). UNODA has achieved good results in cooperating with relevant regional and subregional organizations, such as the OSCE, the African Union, ASEAN, the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, in exploring ways and means in strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540 in their respective regions.

Some 25 IROs were represented during a series of meetings, organized by UNODA in April in Vienna to enhance cooperation and identify synergies on issues of 1540 implementation. These events allowed these representatives to exchange about a Comprehensive Security Culture, their technical assistance programmes and their most effective practices. A strengthened networking among IROs resulted from this sharing of information and lessons learned and from the identification of assistance requirements and programmes that they offer to their respective Member States.

**Key Area 3 (Building Effective Partnerships with Key Stakeholders including Civil Society and Industry)**

And **thirdly**, UNODA is committed to build productive and innovative partnerships with civil society, including industry and academics, to engage them to support the Member
States’ efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

Today’s workshop illustrates this particular type of activities resulting from the partnership that our Office has developed with King’s College London. In February, another UNODA-sponsored civil society workshop held in New Delhi, was organized by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (represented here by Prof. Rajiv Nayan) and King’s College London. This workshop strived to identify effective practices to apply resolution 1540. Its report was presented in August to the 1540 Committee by Mr. Ian Stewart of King’s College London.

Another example of UNODA’s close cooperation with civil society is its joint publication “The 1540 Compass” which is published together with the Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) of the University of Georgia, USA. This publication, of which seven issues have already been released, is an interactive online journal for Member States, international and regional organizations, as well as civil society to share information and effective practices in the context of resolution 1540.

Since 2012, UNODA has also been partnering with Germany in the “Wiesbaden Process”, consisting of conferences, held once a year, to build sustainable cooperation between the industry and the United Nations in support of the 1540 implementation. A third conference is planned in Frankfurt for 20-21 November.

The importance of developing a comprehensive security culture in relation with chemical, biological and nuclear security was addressed at UNODA-supported meetings in Baku, Budapest, Kyiv, Yerevan, Jakarta, each time with a significant participation of civil society. There is a growing recognition that a comprehensive security culture can be a crucial factor to achieve the main objectives of resolution 1540 and prevent the proliferation of WMDs to and by non-State actors.

The challenges related to resolution 1540 are not simple. An effective implementation of this resolution requires a very wide scope of measures that include legislation and law enforcement. They pertain to domestic controls but also to regional and international cooperation. They require measures to account for and secure WMD-related materials within countries as well as in international transfers of related materials and
technologies. And while they require action by governments, they also require cooperation and support from industry and the public.

The 1540 Committee's Comprehensive Review scheduled for 2016 will offer a special opportunity to perform an in-depth appraisal and to develop more precise mechanisms to assess the efforts to implement 1540 worldwide. This exercise could develop and provide Member States with additional tools and assistance over the next decade.

I firmly believe that civil society, academia and industry can and make an important contribution to the Comprehensive Review process.

Thank you for your attention.