



ITALY

OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

on

“Cooperation between the Security Council and international organizations on the implementation of resolutions 1540 and 1673”

STATEMENT BY
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Thank you Mister President.

Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation for the timely opportunity this Open Debate offers to discuss the role of international organizations in fostering the implementation of resolutions 1540 and 1673.

Mister President,

the importance for international peace and security of preventing non state actors to have access to weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials (which is the goal of resolution 1540) has been so widely recognized that it needs no further explanation.

In line with the 2003 EU Strategy on WMD non proliferation, Italy is on the forefront against the threat that terrorist organizations may acquire those deadly weapons, and lends its convinced support to resolution 1540.

It is worth recalling that in June 2006 the EU has granted 195,000 euros to promote the implementation of the resolution in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America-Caribbean. The latter was again included among the EU non proliferation priorities for 2007-2009.

Mister President,

three years after the adoption of resolution 1540, the danger of WMD proliferation has not been overcome yet, and many States face difficulties in putting in place the required legislative and technical provisions.

Indeed, the response to the complex nature of proliferation challenges has to be comprehensive and encompass, inter alia, safety and security of dual use items, effective export and border controls, interdiction of illicit trafficking and brokering in these items.

Against this background, we must make full use of the expertise of international organizations operating in nuclear, chemical, biological and missile-related sectors. They can provide the assistance States may need.

To this end, consistent with provisions of resolutions 1540 and 1673, a network of multilateral cooperation has to be envisaged. The Security Council – and its Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 that you, Mister President, so effectively lead – can act as a catalyst.

Mister President,

we believe that the present discussion should be institutionalized and made operational. The 1540 Committee should foresee, as it is starting to do, periodic meetings (in the form of thematic debates duly prepared in advance) with relevant international organizations in order to develop synergies, pool resources and facilitate the matching of assistance requests from States with cooperation programs available in the portfolios of international institutions.

While we welcome the presentations made by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Customs Organization, we deem necessary to involve other international organizations active in areas within the scope of resolution 1540.

In particular, attention shall be paid to physical protection and safe handling of biological pathogens, strengthening of national mechanisms overseeing transfers of sensitive dual use items and enhancing law enforcement efforts to disrupt illicit networks used to finance proliferation.

Mister President,

questions of substance often come together with procedural issues. Therefore, I believe it might be useful for the 1540 Committee to agree on a calendar of meetings with relevant international organizations, and to build with them a list of points of contact in charge of assistance programs.

In conclusion, Mister President, let me once again stress that in the common endeavor to promote full implementation of resolution 1540, the Security Council and the membership can rely on Italy's firm commitment and steadfast support.