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Statement by H.E. Mr. Takahiro Shinyo  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
On Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006)  
At the Security Council Chamber  
23 February 2007

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me say that it is our great pleasure to have you here today to preside over the Council for the second time in this week, for the deliberations on this important subject. I would like to appreciate your introductory remarks this morning as well. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and the representatives of the OPCW, the IAEA and the World Customs Organization, respectively, for their statements. Since we have not had an opportunity to have discussion solely focused on resolution 1540 for quite some time in this Chamber, I highly commend the initiative of H.E. Ambassador Peter Burian of Slovakia, who currently chairs the 1540 Committee, to make this open debate possible.

Last week, a workshop on the implementation of resolution 1540 was held in San Francisco, for the first time within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and an expert from my delegation took part. I received a report that the workshop was quite fruitful, and in this regard I wish to thank the Governments of the United States, Canada and Singapore, which co-sponsored this workshop. At the workshop, ARF participants explained their respective efforts to implement resolution 1540, and it was impressive that a number of Asian countries have made strides in its implementation. This fact, in my view, is attributable to the outreach activities undertaken by you, in particular, Mr. President. It also demonstrates, in my view, that the activities related to resolution 1540 have

apparently shifted from the stage of reporting to the next phase. At the same time, based on the discussion at the workshop and my mission's experience while serving on the 1540 Committee for the last two years, it appears that the challenges surrounding the implementation of resolution 1540 have become clearer. Today, I would like to share some thoughts on those challenges.

Mr. President,

First, as regards cooperation with international organizations, the 1540 Committee itself does not have the capacity to provide assistance to Member States at this point. Therefore, international organizations which have assistance agendas should play active roles. I was encouraged by the statements by the representatives of the competent international organizations. It is necessary for those countries which need assistance to closely communicate with these organizations in order to receive adequate assistance. At the same time, since assistance needs may vary depending on the situation each State is in, donors should provide tailor-made assistance in order to address the specific needs of the recipients. In this connection, I welcome the initiative by Norway, Germany and Chile to hold a workshop here in New York aiming at, among other things, closer coordination among donor countries and relevant international and regional organizations.

Second, the existence of gaps in various aspects in many countries remains a problem. It is often pointed out that in a number of States, high priority is not necessarily given to this area as opposed to development assistance and – and this is somehow related to this point – that in the interagency processes, relevant agencies do not provide enough support for the implementation of resolution 1540. These issues in principle should be tackled by each individual country, but if other countries can share their experience in overcoming them, it would be very helpful. When we discuss the necessity of sharing experience, we tend to talk only about good experience. The fact is that sharing of bad experience and the prescriptions for addressing such difficulties would be the most useful information for those States confronting similar problems.

Third, there is a need for extensive utilization of expert knowledge. In recent months, the interest of NGOs and think-tanks in resolution 1540 has grown. We welcome opinions expressed by research institutions regardless of their political positions, because they not only help increase the awareness regarding this resolution but also provide new perspectives for Member States to consider. The seminar recently organized by think-tanks here succinctly summarized the challenges for the resolution, including those I have just enumerated. Such recommendations and observations should not simply be presented without being properly followed up, but it is important that those points be further elaborated and reflected in the discussion at the 1540 Committee and, moreover at this Council.

Mr. President,

As is often pointed out, the implementation of resolution 1540 is a long-term process, and there is no magic formula. Member States should bring their expertise together with the help of international organizations and NGOs and thoroughly discuss ways to further effectively implement the resolution. To this end, I look forward to having more opportunities to discuss this issue on a regular basis.

Thank you, Mr. President.