



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT BY

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in the open debate of the UN Security Council on

*“Co-operation between the Security Council
and International Organizations in the Implementation
of Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006)”*

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

New York

23rd February 2007

Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations

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1. Slovakia welcomes the representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the Agency) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to our SC debate. Their programmes and activities have a most significant contribution potential towards the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1540. My delegation also warmly welcomes the representative of World Customs Organization (WCO). The adoption and implementation of WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (known as the SAFE initiative) is facilitating the SC efforts to block unauthorized access to proliferation-sensitive materials and equipment. Slovakia would also like to thank to Ambassador Nobuaki Tanaka and his dedicated staff at the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs for their commendable efforts to facilitate the Security Council efforts in this area.

2. For my country the resolution 1540 (2004) represents a landmark contribution of the United Nations, and of the Security Council in particular to strengthening the existing measures to prevent proliferation of WMD. The international treaties would become weak and irrelevant unless the State parties translate their requirements into national norms and implement them in good faith. Approved under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, UNSCR 1540 (2004) adds a new dimension to this aspect, requiring that all States, irrespective of their status to international treaty or export control regimes, develop, establish, strengthen and enforce legal barriers to acquisition of WMD whether by states or non-states actors.

3. In both the letter and spirit of the resolution, the Security Council sought to complement – but not alter or abridge – rights and obligations under international non-proliferation and disarmament treaties. For example, it was emphasized during our previous meeting with OPCW that improvements in measures to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) are occurring in parallel with the complementary requirements laid down in UNSCR 1540, which are binding on all UN member states, including states that are not members of the OPCW. In its report to the Security Council of 25 April 2006, the 1540 Committee recommended to the Security Council to “renew its call upon States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation and, when necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery.”

4. The UN Security Council unanimously reiterated the objectives of UNSCR 1540 with resolution 1673 (2006) of 27 April 2006, which adoption my delegation wholeheartedly supported. Under UNSCR 1673 (2006), the Security Council emphasized the need for the 1540 Committee to step up its outreach activities and

implementation efforts, and look at other organizations for lessons-learned and information sharing models to address the obligations of States to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004). It also called for enhanced technical assistance to carry out the resolution.

5. Slovakia believes that the first measure of success in the implementation of resolution 1540 is reflected in the degree of advancement in worldwide awareness of, and respect for, the letter and spirit of its provisions. My delegation is therefore pleased to note that there is a growing awareness of the importance of resolution 1540 for global, regional and national security of UN Member States. Since the adoption of the resolution a significant progress has been achieved in implementation of its provisions in various regions. At the same time we recognize that there are still many challenges to be addressed to achieve full implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 worldwide. With this aim Slovakia supported organizing in 2006 a series of regional seminars in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the participation of 1540 Committee representatives in regional and sub regional workshops such as those organized by the OSCE, OAS as well as major NGOs. I wish to express the gratitude of my government to the OPCW and the IAEA for their support in these outreach activities. Slovakia welcomes with appreciation the deepening engagement of international, regional and sub-regional organizations as demonstrated by their growing involvement in the Council's efforts concerning the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

6. My delegation notes with satisfaction that through the support of individual Member States, donors, NGOs and international and regional organizations the Security Council managed to create an important momentum in the implementation process which must be utilized now for strengthening a global response to the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through further practical measures. Thus while the year 2006 was dominated by efforts to increase awareness of significance of resolution 1540, we strongly believe that this year the SC must concentrate on further progress in implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) and resolution 1673 (2006) and facilitating cooperation and exchange of information on national experience and best practices in addressing the requirements of resolution 1540, including on further actions needed from States and on technical assistance needed and offered.

7. My delegation is convinced that the outreach activities need to be sustained by a sound strategy on assistance that has to be developed and implemented on a long run. Technical assistance is one of the dominant issues in the interaction of the SC Committee with UN member states. We take note of the fact, that many countries

have been stressing the need for assistance as a way to address difficulties of implementation connected with lack of administrative, technical and expert capacities, as well as lack of financial and human resources. They are also stressing that assistance should be geared towards the specific needs of the recipient countries.

8. It should be noted however, the SC Committee's role is limited to monitoring progress toward implementation of the resolution 1540, therefore Slovakia wishes to stress that, the broad cooperation with States and other organizations in capacity building and assistance is critical to effectively address this issue. Here we believe the contribution of international, regional and sub regional organizations and relevant arrangements to these efforts can make a real difference in advancing the implementation process.

9. At present we note that many countries are already helping provide expertise and advice on a bilateral basis or through international and regional organizations to States lacking knowledge, experience or resources to implement resolution 1540. SC invites both, the States making offers of assistance and those requesting assistance, to take a proactive approach on a bilateral basis, including making use of offers by international organizations, in order to contribute to capacity-building. SC also encourages States to make appropriate use of the background information provided through the legislative database established by the Committee as well as legislative advice provided by international organizations, when enacting national implementation laws and measures.

10. In light of the above Slovakia is grateful to the governments of Germany and Norway for organizing with SC a workshop of donor states on the assistance provided for the implementation of resolution 1540 to be held this March in New York. We are convinced this upcoming meeting will be good opportunity for donors to discuss existing offers and requests for assistance and coordinate their national programs and activities to assist Member States in implementing UNSCR 1540 without creating duplication of work.

11. My delegation also fully appreciates that offers of assistance provided directly from several international organizations and arrangements and recognizes that other such bodies provide assistance of significant relevance to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004). Since this is the first opportunity of the Security Council to meet with IAEA, OPCW and WCO after it decided to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee in April 2006, we wish to thank them for the detailed update about their activities relevant to the implementation of UNSCR 1540. Slovakia encourages all States to take full advantage of these opportunities and those of other

organizations for assistance in capacity building as well as for cooperation in other areas of common interest with the 1540 Committee.

12. We would like to underline that legislative measures to counter proliferation remain primarily within the responsibility of Member States of the UN, and ultimately the implementation of Resolution 1540 is a national function and responsibility. Slovakia therefore considers that the importance of national ownership of implementation of resolution 1540 might be best reflected in national action plans or road maps to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540. We are further of the view that national plans of action would not only help better prioritize the steps leading to the full implementation of resolution 1540, but they could also help to identify for donor countries and countries providing technical assistance those areas where assistance is needed or requested. In this respect my country calls on organizations and relevant multilateral regimes, which already have experience and also effective tools and operational practice from the control of the movement of sensitive materials to share their knowledge with others, possibly in form of most commonly used or best practices. Those best practices might serve States as a source of inspiration when planning or enacting specific national measures on the implementation of resolution 1540.

15. Before concluding, I wish to stress the importance that my country attaches to the need of a comprehensive and systematic approach to implementation of all aspects and requirements of resolution 1540. We think only such approach can provide for an adequate system of protection and prevention of proliferation of WMD nationally and globally. Here my delegation would like to emphasize that active support at national, regional and international levels is needed in making sure that all requirements set forth in resolution 1540 are met by all States in the full and timely manner. Towards this end, we must continue to seek practical ways in which states and international organizations can cooperate on capacity-building and assistance in the Committee's target regions. Slovakia pledges its full cooperation to these endeavors.

16. Last but not least I would like to use this opportunity and express my thanks to all Members of the Security Council for their contributions and active participation in the preparation of the text of the Presidential Statement affirming our determination to promote an increased multilateral co-operation towards full implementation of resolutions 1540 and 1673.

I thank you for your attention.