

Panel: Non-State Stakeholders in Preventing WMD Proliferations (Grand Ballroom I)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 / 15:30-16:45

Talking Points for: Lv Xiaodong, Expert Group of UNSCR 1540 Committee

Resolution 1540 (2004) was unanimously adopted on 28 April 2004 by the United Nations Security Council, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and followed by 4 subsequent resolutions. Resolution 1540 (2004) is a binding instrument which addresses the threat posed by non-state actors, including terrorists, of acquiring weapons of mass destruction or related materials.

Through resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council has established an effective programme of focused steps to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. It supplements the prohibitions on States already put in place under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the conventions banning biological and chemical weapons.

The Security Council recognized that the primary responsibility for fighting WMD proliferation and potential terrorist use of WMD rests with UN Member States. The implementation of the key requirements of the resolution is the responsibility of governments.

International, regional and subregional organizations and UN entities have come to play an essential role in assisting national efforts in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). Civil society embraces all types of non-governmental organisations including academia, think tanks, private research institutions and the private business sector. What role civil society could play in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is still under discussion. The experience of engagement with civil society on disarmament and nonproliferation issues has demonstrated the positive impact civil society has already contributed to international nonproliferation endeavor. Continued and increased contributions by civil society to national and international efforts toward achieving the goal of resolution 1540 (2004) should be encouraged.

*** The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.**