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STATEMENT BY VERTIC: OPEN CONSULTATIONS BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

Delivered by Scott Spence, Programme Director for National Implementation

United Nations, New York
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Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

VERTIC welcomes the opportunity for civil society to participate in these Open Consultations by the 1540 Committee on the Comprehensive Review of the resolution. We are a committed partner in achieving resolution 1540's ultimate objectives of preventing non-State actors from engaging in any activities involving nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, including keeping related materials and technologies out of their reach.

Mr Chairman, I will first briefly describe how activities under VERTIC's Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2015 were in direct fulfilment of resolution 1540 and several of its operative paragraphs. Further to operative paragraphs 2 and 3, we developed the *National Legislation Implementation Kit on Nuclear Security*, Indonesia's gift basket to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit, as well as a *Legislative Guide* to national implementation of resolution 1540. These documents, as well as VERTIC's *Sample Act* and *Regulatory Guidelines* for national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, were presented in April 2015 to the 1540 Committee, by the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, as examples of best practice for implementation of the resolution.

During this same period, further to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 7, we completed 45 Biological Weapons Convention legislation surveys, 14 Chemical Weapons Convention legislation surveys, 20 nuclear security legislation surveys and five Additional Protocol surveys, to assess how States are implementing these international instruments, and the related provisions of resolution 1540, into their national legal frameworks. In addition, and further to operative paragraph 8(a), we co-operated with 16 States to join the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, 12 States on adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and five States on adoption of the Additional Protocol.

Finally, and further to operative paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8(b), we provided legislative assistance to over 60 States during 2012 to 2015, more than 20 per year, to implement the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, international instruments for nuclear security, and related provisions of resolution 1540. Recent examples include Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Senegal. VERTIC also co-



organised two workshops in April with the Government of Jamaica, in co-operation with CARICOM's 1540 Co-ordinator and additional experts from Kingston University and the Center for International Trade and Security, to prepare drafting instructions to implement Financial Action Task Force Recommendation 7, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and strategic trade controls. VERTIC is grateful to the Global Partnership Program of Global Affairs Canada, without whose support our current work in Jamaica, and in four other States in Latin America and the Caribbean on legislative implementation of resolution 1540 with project partner Stimson, would not be possible.

Mr Chairman, I will now briefly propose ways in which the 1540 Committee and Expert Group could more closely co-ordinate their efforts with civil society organisations and enhance implementation of the resolution. Firstly, we recommend that the 1540 Committee expand the "Assistance Programmes and Offers" page, on the Committee's website, to include offers of assistance from civil society organisations such as VERTIC. In this way, States seeking assistance will have a fuller understanding of the implementation expertise that is already available globally. Secondly, we recommend that the 1540 Committee co-ordinate requests for assistance with those civil society organisations that are in a position to meet them. This would formally expand the range of assistance options that are already available to States, minimise duplication of activities and maximise precious financial and human resources among all assistance providers, whether friendly governments, international or regional organisations, or civil society organisations. Thirdly, we encourage even closer co-operation between the Expert Group and civil society organisations in implementation activities. I should highlight, for example, that two 1540 experts observed the workshops that the Government of Jamaica and VERTIC organised in April, which is a positive development. Finally, we encourage the 1540 Committee to continue engaging States in preparing voluntary national action plans further to operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1977. Our co-operation with States on preparing such action plans suggests that they are an effective way of identifying what must be done to fully implement the resolution, which ministries or agencies should take the lead on each item, and which implementation assistance providers, such as VERTIC, can assist them to meet the identified needs.

Thank you Mr Chairman.