Seven years ago, the international community was faced with an important question: what could we collectively do to ensure that non-state actors, including terrorists, did not gain access to materials that could be used in the development of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons or their means of delivery?

Resolution 1540 calls upon states to adopt and enforce effective measures to address the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, to prevent non-state actors from gaining access to such items or related materials.

It is unique in that it is a cooperative tool that calls upon states to be proactive. In this spirit, the Security Council took the unanimous decision to extend the mandate of the Committee responsible for facilitating the implementation of the resolution for another ten years. Through resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Committee has been mandated to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance, and to enhance its cooperation with relevant international, regional, and subregional organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Resolution 1977 enhances the Committee’s ability to work with member states in support of their implementation efforts. One of the key challenges that many states may face is the question of capacity to implement the provisions of resolution 1540. It is important that we ensure that the coordinated and transparent assistance process is accessible to all states.

It is my belief that as we continue to implement the requirements of resolution 1540, we will have to actively engage in dialogue with states on implementation. It is especially pleasing to have a new journal devoted to examining these issues in a constructive manner. I thank the 1540 Compass editorial team for this initiative and welcome their support.

I welcome the initiative of the Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) to publish an electronic journal “1540 Compass” and its invitation to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to cooperate in this project. My Office is committed to work actively with civil society and academia on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and will continue to strengthen this partnership in support of the objectives of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The new journal offers a platform for sharing experience in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) and establishes an interactive forum for advancing and discussing ideas which could assist the international community to bolster existing cooperation and forging new partnerships in promoting the implementation of the resolution. I wish this project success.