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FOREWORD

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to non-state actors emerged as a very real and serious danger to global peace and security. There is ample evidence that non-state actors, in particular terrorist organizations, actively seek out these deadly weapons. Traditional deterrence or threat of retribution will not convince terrorists to lay down their weapons and we must assume that if some terrorist organizations do acquire WMD or a radiological disperseive device, they will use it. The consequences of such an attack would be horrific and global. As a result, it is of the utmost importance to keep these deadly weapons and their precursor materials beyond the reach of non-state actors.

In 2004, to counter the WMD terrorism threat, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1540 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. If the resolution is comprehensively implemented by all states, the potential for terrorist access to these deadly technologies would diminish significantly now and for the foreseeable future. However, implementation of the resolution's provisions has, from its inception, been uneven.

In recent years, Kofi Annan, Ambassador Peter Burian (Chair of the 1540 Committee from 2006 to 2008) and others have urged greater involvement of regional organizations in security-related matters. Indeed, regional organizations are already active on security issues in their respective areas of the world. In light of Resolution 1540's implementation challenges and the track record of regional organizations in security-related matters, the United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), together with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), assembled a team of experienced scholars and practitioners with regional knowledge to examine the role regional organizations can play in facilitating implementation of Resolution 1540. This book is the result of that research and focuses on the efforts to implement the resolution in Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

UNIDIR and the MIIS James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies have a long-standing and successful collaboration on research on nuclear

non-proliferation, nuclear arms control and disarmament and relevant educational endeavours. We are delighted to have the opportunity to work together again on what is one of the most important and solvable issues of our time. We hope that our work will provide ideas for further debate, particularly in the regional organizations that are so important in providing global security.

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