

High-Level Meeting between the UN and Regional and Other IGOs
Report of the Meeting of the ODA-led Working Group on Disarmament and Non-proliferation
Vienna, 3 July 2007

I. INTRODUCTION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

The Report of the Working Group on Disarmament and Non-proliferation approved by the 7th High-Level Meeting held in September 2006 made a number of recommendations. It recommended, among other things, that further cooperation and coordination between the UN and regional and other intergovernmental organizations be strived for in the following areas: small arms and light weapons (SALW); preventing WMD terrorism, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006), making collaborative efforts to design and undertake outreach activities at the regional and sub-regional levels aimed at raising awareness and, as appropriate, facilitate the provision of assistance and cooperation to strengthen States' national capacity to implement their obligations. It also recommended that, pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), members of the Working Group make greater endeavor to generate synergy and avoid duplications of efforts and activities, and that cooperation, communication and coordination be strengthened through a number of concrete measures.

The Working Group met at the OSCE Congress Centre in Vienna on 3 July 2007. Representatives from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTTO), League of Arab States (LAS), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) participated in the meeting. CTBTTO, OPCW, OSCE and UNODA made presentations on issues related to the topics on the agenda of the meeting. International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) also contributed papers. Participants expressed their appreciation to OSCE Secretariat for hosting the meeting.

The following issues were addressed at the meeting: 1) Implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group approved by the 7th High-Level Meeting; 2) Promoting the universality and implementation of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments; and 3) Protection and assistance in case of attacks with weapons of mass destruction.

Participants noted that the High-Level Meeting process is currently under review and expressed their appreciation to ODA for its briefing on the review. Participants expressed the view that the High-Level Meeting Process should continue while adopting a more flexible, practical and efficient approach.

Participants expressed their satisfaction that there already existed fruitful cooperation among the UN and various regional and other inter-governmental organizations on a wide range of issues related to the Working Group's agenda. They noted that there were still potentials for more and improved coordination and cooperation. In strengthening their partnerships, and through the support and promotion of regional efforts and initiatives, the UN, regional and other inter-governmental organizations are in a position to promote and enhance further international efforts, within their respective mandates and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region.

Participants noted that within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the UN and relevant regional and other inter-governmental organizations are engaging in close cooperation in the relevant working groups to address specific areas of concern, and that care should be taken to avoid duplication of efforts in other fora.

Participants also noted that several organizations have taken regional initiatives in supporting the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) at the regional level, such as the development of a Best Practice Guide for the implementation of resolution 1540 within the framework of OSCE.

The need to address the root causes was underlined in the discussion of preventing WMD terrorism. Participants noted that several inter-governmental organizations, such as IAEA and OPCW have already had in place active protection and assistance programmes against possible attacks with WMD.

II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group adopted the following recommendations:

General cooperation

1. Participating organizations, building on their existing cooperation in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation, increase the level of coordination and cooperation among them, including at activity planning stage, with a view to improving effectiveness and ensuring greater impact of their joint and individual activities undertaken at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.
2. Participating organizations noted the progress made in the implementation of the Working Group's recommendation that UNODA and its three regional centers for Peace and Disarmament share their knowledge, expertise and experience and as well as their infrastructure with regional and other inter-governmental organizations, in particular those that do not have field presence in Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. They recommend that this cooperation be expanded as appropriate.

Multilateral instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation

1. The UN, regional and other inter-governmental organizations strengthen their joint efforts in promoting the entry-into-force, universality and full implementation of those instruments through various initiatives, such as conferences, workshops, consultations and training at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.
2. Participants noted that cross-participation in relevant meetings and events offered the opportunity to discuss issues of common interest among the organizations on the margins. This has proved to yield results with regard to universality and improved implementation of disarmament related treaties. Organizations are encouraged to invite their partners to participate in/observe such meetings and events.
3. Jointly promote global and regional transparency in military matters, arrangements or measures related to confidence-building and security-building, and in this context, encourage efforts undertaken by, inter alia, regional organizations, in promoting existing instruments, such as the UN Register on Conventional Arms and the UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, as well as regional commitments and documents and their full implementation.

Prevention of WMD terrorism

1. Strengthen coordination and cooperation within and with the Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force in fortifying national, regional and international capacities in their implementation of the global counter-terrorism strategy, in particular those elements on preventing WMD terrorism.
2. UNODA, regional and other inter-governmental organizations coordinate in the planning and execution of their activities with regard to the implementation of 1540 resolution (2004) with a view to enhancing efforts, producing synergy and avoiding duplication.
3. Relevant inter-governmental organizations and regional organizations contribute to the development and populating of the Bio-Incident Database designed by UNODA through the provision of relevant data and information, as well as sharing experiences and lessons learned in developing and utilizing similar databases for other WMD related issues.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW)

1. Pursue further joint planning and implementation of regional and sub-regional initiatives, including workshops and training, with a view to promoting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (PoA), the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) and other relevant international and regional instruments, with focus on capacity- building for States, regional and sub-regional organizations, which are in such need. Provide, *inter alia*, practical assistance in developing or updating national legislation,

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ensuring secure SALW stockpile management and destruction of surplus SALW. Establish a point of contact within relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, if they haven't done so, to act as liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the PoA.

2. Jointly promote the implementation of the International Instrument on Tracing Illicit SALW, the Firearms Protocol and other relevant instruments at the global, regional and national levels, emphasizing their complementarity.

3. Enhance and facilitate co-operation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations with respect to promoting implementation commitments and obligations stemming from the above-mentioned instruments.

4. Jointly promote and facilitate exchange of information, experiences and lessons learnt among States in their implementation of PoA and the International Instrument on Tracing Illicit SALW through various databases/websites, such as UNODA's website on data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports on the implementation of the PoA, and the UN CASA Internet Database.
