

**Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the activities undertaken by the 1540 Committee since July 21st 2005 and to introduce the Committee's third programme of work for the period 1 October to the end of 2005.

Examination of national reports

The main task of the Committee for the last three months has been to complete the examination of first reports submitted by States. I am very pleased to announce that this objective, which is an important part of monitoring States' efforts to implement resolution 1540, has been carried out successfully.

Since June 2005, the Committee, with the support of its Group of Experts, has examined 124 national reports. On the basis of this process and with the view to better understand the measures undertaken or planned to be taken by States to implement resolution 1540, the Committee decided to solicit additional information and/or clarification in areas covered by their first reports. As a result, letters have been forwarded to the submitting States through their Missions in New York together with the individual matrices used for processing the first reports. The Committee has requested States to address the gaps of information identified in their reports and to inform the Committee accordingly within two months from the date of the letter. We stand ready to develop a constructive and transparent dialogue with all States in addressing the issue of additional information.

The Committee will continue to examine further first reports that are received from States as well as additional information that is being provided in response to the letters. In this regard, I would like to inform the Council that 21 States have already provided additional information to their first reports. All these data will be processed accordingly by the Committee.

Establishment of legislative database

In order to broaden its knowledge about States' efforts to implement resolution 1540, the Committee decided to build a legislative database that will be used as a supplementary tool of information for further examination of the reports.

This database will contain links to relevant public sources of information about States' national legislative and other regulatory measures. The final product of the work underway will be shared with the reporting States at a later stage.

Reporting and outreach

On previous occasions, I have already stated that by April 2006, the Committee will have to provide necessary information to enable the Security Council to assess the progress States have made in implementing the resolution and to decide what should be done henceforth.

The Committee can properly fulfill its remaining mandate if all States submit their reports to the Committee in time, as the Council has called upon them to do. If States provide sufficient information, the Committee can present to the Security Council a report on what has been achieved so far by States in implementing the provisions of resolution 1540 and which implementation gaps need to be addressed further.

As of today, 67 Member States have yet to report. I would like to call again on those who have not yet done so, to submit their first reports without further delay.

Reporting is the best tool to allow the Committee to account for States' implementation efforts and to promote assistance for those who encounter reporting or implementation difficulties.

All States should be aware that unless they meet their obligations in full, such as by enacting and enforcing effective national legal and regulatory measures, their territories may be used for shipping WMD and related materials across in transit, or for financing of illegal activities, or as a safe haven to broker the sale of WMD-related materials in other countries. However, we recognize that fully implementing the resolution will be a long-term undertaking which will require additional dialogue and coordination.

The Committee has continued to raise the issue of further reporting and has promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 through outreach activities.

On 8 September 2005, together with the Chairmen of CTC and Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee, I had the opportunity to address the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments. This was the first occasion to reach out to leaders of national legislatures to inform them of our achievements as well as the challenges ahead, and, more importantly, to seek their support in the implementation of resolution 1540, namely the transposition of its provisions into national legislation.

I would like to express my gratitude to Argentina and the United Kingdom for contributing to the organization of the first regional seminar on "Advancing the implementation of UNSCR 1540 for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The interactive format of the discussions that took place in Buenos Aires from 26 to 28 September has contributed to a better comprehension of resolution 1540 objectives as well as of the steps to be pursued by States in the implementation process. The participants underscored the need for follow-up interaction and dialogue between the countries from the region and 1540 Committee as the implementation process and the work of the Committee evolve.

The Committee also had the opportunity to promote its outreach programme in Africa and Eurasia and was represented by its experts at the Uganda Workshop on “The Global Bargain for Bio-Security and Health” and at the “Seventh International Conference on Export Controls” in Sweden.

We will continue to approach all countries that have yet to report. I have expressed my readiness to reach out again to the members of all regional groups in New York. We have already met Member States from Latin America and the Caribbean. Informal interaction with other regional groups will follow soon.

The Committee, with the support of Member States and the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs and its regional centres will continue its outreach activities. Seminars and workshops aimed at raising the awareness of the proliferation problem worldwide, facilitating further reporting and advancing the implementation process, are useful tools for our work. In this context, I would like to welcome the recent statement of China made at the First Committee indicating that China is positively considering hosting a regional seminar on issues related to UNSCR 1540 and is discussing this matter with relevant bodies of the UN.

The issues of improving reporting performance and late submission are considered in a coordinated manner by the three Committees. We are making use of country visits by the CTC and the 1267 Committee in order to raise the issue of reporting.

Assistance

In considering first national reports the Committee has identified offers and requests for assistance. This information on the offers of assistance is available on the web site of the 1540 Committee, and includes in some instances areas in which a specific country has indicated it is able to provide assistance, as well as initial contact information. The Committee will seek to expand this information as appropriate.

The Committee will continue to act as a clearing house on the issue of assistance. In further examining the first reports and additional information from States, the Committee will keep up-to-date information on the issue of assistance in order to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540.

In order to perform effectively its role of a clearing house on assistance, the Committee will continue to request States, as appropriate, to designate Points of Contact on assistance.

As I mentioned before, full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term objective that obviously goes beyond the current mandate of the Committee. It will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels on capacity-building and assistance, as well as monitoring and measuring progress made by States in implementing this resolution.

I am confident that the Security Council will consider how best to ensure that the work of the Committee makes an enduring contribution to non-proliferation.

Interaction with international organizations

As the examination process of national reports continues, the Committee will interact and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540. Working relationships with these organizations are being developed as appropriate.

In the same vein, the 1540 Committee will maintain close cooperation with the CTC and the Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee, as envisaged in resolution 1566 (2004) and the statements by the President of the Security Council of 25 April 2005 (S/PRST/2005/16) and of 20 July 2005 (S/PRST/2005/16). The Committee's experts will work closely with the experts of the other Committees, making every effort to maximize the synergies between and among the experts of the other Committees.

Transparency

Transparency will remain a priority of our work. The Chairman and the Vice-chairmen will reach out on a regular basis to the UN Member States. This will include work with the UN Media, including through joint briefings with the Chairmen of the CTC and the Committee on Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions. The Committee will keep updating its dedicated website as an additional source of information on issues related to resolution 1540. A separate entry on assistance was added to this website.

The Committee will also continue its practice of informing organizations outside the UN about our work through attendance at international, regional and sub-regional meetings and conferences. I will make full use of these opportunities to address in particular the issues of further reporting and implementation.

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to the cooperation of all States as the Committee goes forward with its work in the months ahead.