

Briefing by Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Briefing by the Counter-Terrorism Committees

16 May 2011

Introduction

In addition to the information just presented in the Joint Report, I am very pleased to summarize the main developments in the work of the 1540 Committee since the last joint briefing on 15 November 2010. I would like to start by commenting on the adoption of resolution 1977 on 20 April 2011, which extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for ten years. I will then address the recent activities of the Committee.

UNSC Resolution 1977 (2011)

The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1977 (2011) on 20 April 2011. The resolution reaffirms resolution 1540 (2004) which calls on States to implement appropriate effective measures to address the threat that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Through resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council acknowledges the progress made by States in implementing resolution 1540. The Council further notes that the full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels. The new resolution extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years, which will enhance the 1540 Committee's ability to support the implementation of resolution 1540 and assist States in their efforts, in particular by enabling the Committee to plan its activities over a long period.

The new resolution also provides for two Comprehensive Reviews, one after five years and one before the end of the mandate. These comprehensive reviews will provide the Committee with important opportunities to assess implementation of resolution 1540 and to

engage in an in-depth dialogue with Member States on issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540.

The mandate contained in resolution 1977 (2011) provides the 1540 Committee with a sound and efficient basis for its work over the next decade. The resolution *inter alia* mandates the Committee to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance its cooperation with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Committee is also mandated to continue to refine its outreach efforts, and to continue to institute transparency measures, including through regular open meetings with Member States. The resolution urges the Committee to continue to engage actively with States to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), and dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to States at their invitation. The resolution also mandates the Committee to conduct annual reviews on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in order to guide its activities, and, on this basis, to include as necessary specific priorities in its annual programme of work.

Recent activities

Taking note of the 2009 Comprehensive Review and building on the Committee's successive Programmes of Work, the 1540 Committee conducted the following activities since its previous briefing last November.

Implementation

During the last six months, the Committee received first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) from Ethiopia, Gabon, and Rwanda respectively. The Committee also received additional information from Finland, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine. Using this and other information, the Committee also reviewed and approved 192 matrices before the end of 2010. The information in these matrices forms the foundation of the data that will appear in the 1540 Committee's Report to the Security Council due by 24 May 2011.

The Committee therefore continues to encourage States to provide updated information on their implementation efforts.

Assistance

The Committee continues to work on assistance requests and on possible next steps. It also continues to elaborate policy guidelines to address a range of assistance issues and strengthen its clearinghouse and match-making roles. Since the previous briefing, the Committee continued to raise awareness about the revised procedures for processing assistance requests and to encourage States to provide any updated information regarding formerly submitted assistance requests or offers of assistance, as well as updated information of assistance points of contacts.

Cooperation

The Chairman of the 1540 Committee, coordinators of its Working Groups and the experts participated in a meeting of 25 international governmental, regional and sub-regional organizations on "*Cooperation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540*" that was held in Vienna last December, hosted by the Government of Austria and organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The Chairman of the 1540 Committee addressed Committee on Hemispheric Security on 17 February 2011 of the Organization of American States. A member of the Committee and the experts also participated in a workshop on resolution 1540 (2004) of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe during January 2011.

The experts also participated in the OPCW seminar on its contribution to Security and Non-proliferation of Chemical Weapons, in The Hague, 11-12 April, during which discussion of resolution 1540 featured. The experts also continued dialogue with the World Customs Organization (WCO) during the first meeting of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Border Management, hosted by the World Customs Organization, 11-12 January 2011.

Outreach and Transparency

The 1540 Committee and its group of experts continued to participate in outreach events at the international, regional or sub-regional levels, to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540. In addition to those mentioned above, these events took place in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific Islands region. Thematically, workshops addressed issues on Export Controls (in Japan), Transshipment (in the United Arab Emirates), and Proliferation Financing (in France).

With regard to transparency, the Committee posted on its website approximately 180 Committee approved country matrices as well as Information Notes on the outreach activities in which 1540 Committee Members and experts have participated during the recent years. The Working Group on Outreach and Transparency also examined the 1540 Committee's media strategy in the context of the new resolution 1977 (2011) and the forthcoming 1540 Committee Report to the Security Council.

Conclusion

I appreciated the cooperative spirit among the Security Council members that led to adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) and look forward to continuing working in that spirit in the implementation of the resolution.

Thank you.