

**PRESENTATION REPORT**  
**of the Head of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads**  
**of Special Services, Security Agencies and**  
**Law-Enforcement Organizations (February 2007)**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

I appreciate the opportunity to address this audience again. More than a year had passed since the presentation of my previous report on December 1, 2005. Much has changed in the world during this period and your esteemed Committee was not an exception.

Dear Mr. Arias, please, accept my congratulations upon your appointment to the post of the Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. I wish you every success in this field. I also hope that during your Chairmanship the Committee will be continuously playing an important role in safeguarding global security and stability and at the same time strengthening the United Nations' role of the anti-terrorist co-operation coordinator worldwide.

In my previous report I have already briefed you on the Russian FSB initiative of creating a mechanism of multilateral co-operation among security / intelligence and law-enforcement agencies, which received broad support of our foreign counterparts. Counter-terrorism requires an all-aspect approach on the governmental level. We managed to find a unique niche within the framework of multilateral counter-terrorist co-operation. The United Nations Security Council resolutions, primarily UNSCR 1373 and 1624, stipulate strengthening national efforts to combat terrorist menace and within this context the special services' activities will be essential.

Let me briefly remind you, that starting from 2002 the FSB of Russia has been a host organization of multilateral international conferences officially known as

‘Meetings of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations’, focused on the issues of countering various forms of terrorism. In 2006 we celebrated the fifth anniversary of this event. The 5th Meeting held in the city of Kazan last June was attended by the delegations of 75 security/intelligence and law enforcement agencies representing 50 countries of the world. We took in to consideration Committee’s recommendation to enlarge the number of participants by inviting delegations from the Islamic countries. Special services of Algeria, Morocco, Indonesia and Malaysia participate in our Meetings.

The Meeting represents a kind of a professional club for the senior executives of agencies dealing with counter-terrorism issues. Once a year it provides high level officials, responsible for the decision-making in the sphere of their countries’ national security, with an opportunity to conduct round-table discussions. Furthermore, it is a conference of experts ‘speaking the same language’, notwithstanding certain national peculiarities (primarily, in the legal aspect).

Many of our colleagues believe, that a conference of this scope is ‘the best way of finding common approaches’ to combat terrorism. Due to their professionalism and knowledge the Meeting’s participants are able to respond quickly to any newly emerging trends, identify the most pressing issues of counter-terrorism. Besides that, law-enforcement and security heads usually enjoying confidence and authority on the highest level of government, are in the ability to influence directly the process of shaping national security policies in their respective countries. Therefore it is our belief that the Meetings we host, facilitate the consolidation of anti-terrorist efforts of the entire global community.

We are convinced, that this objective could only be achieved by way of strengthening the United Nations co-ordination in countering the new threats and challenges. This position of the Meeting’s participants was stated in all working documents. We highly appreciate the contribution to the Meeting’s work made by

your Committee and reaffirm our commitment to further promoting a constructive dialogue with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. In our opinion, this co-operation would encourage national governments to exercise more diligence in implementing their obligations, based on the anti-terrorist resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

The Meeting's work is spirited by mutual trust built in the process of interpersonal contacts of heads of participating agencies. The Meetings are essential in the way they provide annual opportunities to exchange opinions with the colleagues, who in other circumstances would be an unlikely company. During the Meetings delegations of the countries with different levels of socio / economic development and democracy as well as different confessional patterns present their standpoints. Such working format makes it possible for the participants to exchange their views on the topical issues of combating terrorism and set a principally new dimension of our counter-terrorist co-operation, which is carrying out joint operations either bilaterally or multilaterally. A positive example of such co-operation was a six-partite operation aimed at suppressing a transnational group of criminals involved in terrorist financing. In the course of the operation the FSB of Russia had been assisted by the partner services of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Turkey. Another example of productive co-operation was the arrest in the United States of an international terrorist of Lebanese origin Kamal El-Zahabi, who had been involved in organizing terrorist activity on Russian territory. An Algerian national Kamal Bourakhla, known of his previous involvement in the terrorist operations conducted in Russia, France and the United Kingdom, was arrested and brought to justice by Russian security authorities. Our French and British counterparts provided their assistance in the investigation of the case.

The organizational aspect of the Meeting's work is implemented in compliance with the internationally recognized guideline documents: the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, its Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1624, as well

as G8 Summits resolutions. The Working Group of the Meeting is responsible for drafting the agenda with the proper consideration given to the interests of all the participants. The introduction of a final version of every successive Meeting's working agenda is preceded by multiple consultations.

During the five-year history of the Meeting we have considered diverse aspects of counter-terrorist co-operation among the participant agencies. The issue of preventing the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction was given our closest attention. Among other agenda items were:

- legislative regulation in the sphere of combating terrorist activity and bringing together the relevant norms of national legislations,
- suppression of terrorist financing, including prevention of terrorist access to illicit drug trafficking proceeds,
- prevention of the terrorist attacks based on the application of advanced technologies,
- identification and neutralization of suicide terrorist operatives,
- prevention of the incitement to terrorist activity (within the scope of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1624),
- extending the scope of information exchange.

During the last Meeting held in Kazan the issue of anti-terrorist protection of energy power infrastructures had been addressed for the first time. The choice of such an agenda item was dictated by the dynamics of global economy development, heavily dependent on the energy supplies continuity. Accordingly, the interaction among the security / intelligence and law-enforcement agencies dealing with the steadily increasing terrorist threats to energy power infrastructures was recognized an important component of joint counter-terrorist effort. It also should be taken into account in elaboration of common approaches to ensuring the anti-terrorist security of global energy network.

Since recently, the Meeting's participants have been expressing their growing concerns in connection with the spread of the most dangerous trends of extremist activity, above all, religiously motivated extremism. To certain extent, putting this item on the agenda was decisive in selecting Kazan - the capital city of the Republic of Tatarstan as the 5th Meeting's venue. In the Russian Federation, with its historically formed multiethnic and multiconfessional society, Tatarstan is a significant example of how people of different religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds could happily coexist by way of respecting and enriching cultural traditions of each other.

In our view, the Meeting is clearly proving its efficiency as an integral part of the protective system security of multilateral international events. The mechanism of multilateral security/intelligence and law-enforcement co-ordination worked out by the Meeting's participants and originally introduced during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, was successfully employed during the 2005 APEC Summit in Busan, Republic of Korea and 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. During the preparatory and implementation stage of these international events the working group of the agencies representatives participating in our Meeting had been operating. Their operation involved real-time security information exchange, coordination of proactive counter-terrorist measures etc. We are determined to continue this work during the security pre-arrangements for the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in the People's Republic of China.

The issue of efficient co-operation among security/intelligence and law-enforcement agencies in the sphere of information sharing is of critical importance for us. It was essential in bringing forward the idea of creating an international database on counter-terrorism related matters. We will make sure that all agencies participating in our Meeting are provided with an access to the database established within the FSB of Russia.

We consider this development a major break-through in the Meeting's work. You may understand that creation of any information storage resource involving the participation of several special services is a 'delicate matter'. We have always been conscious of the possible challenges. Nevertheless, there are signs of understanding shown by our counterparts. A number of our colleagues have expressed their willingness to fill the data base with new information about individuals and organizations conducting terrorist activities in their countries. Some European special services leaders are taking necessary steps to overcome difficulties caused by discrepancies in national legal frameworks so that the Meeting's data base project could progress.

At the moment we are in the process of drafting the 6th Meeting's agenda. All our partners (including the US, France, Germany, Finland and Turkey) unanimously acknowledge that anti-terrorist activities should be primarily focused on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we think that the results drawn up by the Meeting after discussing this problem will be instrumental in terms of implementing the Russian-US global initiative on countering acts of nuclear terrorism. Special services representing the initiative member states (with the exception of Australia) are attending our Meeting on a regular basis.

Virtually all our colleagues acknowledge the necessity of developing an "effective strategy for countering terrorist propaganda and recruitment", in order to comply with the declaration on countering terrorism made by the G8 leaders during the summit in Saint-Petersburg. Facilitating role of the Internet in promotion of terrorist ideas and recruitment of new followers to terrorist organizations becomes more and more evident. Therefore elaboration of joint measures aimed at preventing terrorist use of the Internet has become the topic of the day.

The Meeting's Working group accumulates and processes all the proposals of our partners. I would like to note that we will appreciate all the proposals introduced by the Committee for the agenda of our 2007 forum. I am sure that the Committee's assessment of the topicality of different fighting terror aspects will be positively instrumental for the progress of the Meeting's work.

Unfortunately we have to state that terrorism still represents a crucial threat to the global security. Therefore we believe that it essential to pool efforts in developing international cooperation between special services and law-enforcement organizations and to take all advantages that a "unique ground" of our Meeting can provide in this regard. During the Meeting leaders of special services and law-enforcement organizations representing 50 countries can discuss a wide range of problems related to anti-terrorist security thus paving the way for elaboration of common standards embracing all threats and challenges to contemporary world. Participants of such events become more disposed to decline stereotypes of thinking in terms of confrontation.

Concluding my presentation I would like to reiterate our commitment to promote a productive dialogue between the Meeting and the UN Counter-Terrorist Committee as well as with the Executive directorate of the Committee and would like to invite the Committee leadership to the 6th Meeting in Khabarovsk in September 2007.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

I am ready to answer any questions you may have.