

Information Note¹

- Events:** Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) Meeting (2 June 2010); Annual Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting (3-4 June 2010)
- Organizers:** Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and for the WGCT Meeting, in coordination with the Government of New Zealand
- Date and Venue:** 2, 3 June (4th is closed session of two-day FRSC meeting) June 2010; Suva, Fiji
- Participants:** *Regarding WGCT Meeting: Senior officials from ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior, and offices of Attorneys General: Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.*
International and regional organizations and entities: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), UN Office of Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) expert, 1540 Committee expert.
Regarding the FRSC meeting: additional participation included from: Republic of the Marshall Islands; regional specialized law enforcement and legal agencies including: Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON); UN Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre.

1. Objectives

- Continue follow-up with officials from the Pacific Island States responsible for implementation of UNSCR 1540, including with their Missions to the UN in New York.
- Continue to encourage PIF States to consider accession to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), in line with resolution 1540 (2004) calling on States to promote universal adoption of the main WMD multilateral treaties.
- Identify and develop areas for assistance and capacity building, continuing to build on previous dialogues with PIF countries, international and regional organizations.
- Explore cooperation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) on facilitation of 1540 implementation through its new regional development, as relevant.

2. Background

The annual PIFS meetings of the PIF States continue to be an opportunity for 1540 Committee Members and experts to dialogue with senior decision makers in the region on implementation of resolution 1540

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

(2004). A tradition of holding several meetings back-to-back facilitates participation of PIF States to account for varying travel logistics across the Pacific, as well as of international participants coming from further afield. The Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) Meeting is designed to be held prior to the annual Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting. The UNODC/TPB has previously held a separate workshop prior to the WGCT Meeting, but did not do so in 2010 due to programmatic transition in the region.

3. **Highlights**

The WGCT Meeting – 2 June

The WGCT Meeting was an occasion for the 1540 Committee expert, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTC/CTED) expert and other UN entities to brief the PIF countries on the differences between the mandates and implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Topics of various Working Group presentations noted for particular relevance to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) included:

- nuclear security – the presentation by New Zealand on the outcome of the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit enabled the 1540 expert to reinforce the nuclear security requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular OP3 (a) and (b).
- prohibitions – many participating States were in the process of amending or adopting legislation, including with respect to the then 16 international conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism, into which 1540 prohibitions could be incorporated or for which a separate drafting process could run in parallel. In light of these developments, the 1540 Committee expert shared a previously noted example of a legislative omnibus-style provision in one country's legislation of 2007 that covered the prohibitions of OP2 of resolution 1540 (2004).

Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting – 3 June (open session)

In addition to the Outcomes of the WGCT Meeting being relayed to the FRSC, much attention was given to a forthcoming training assistance workshop for customs officials organized by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in conjunction with the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), 30 June-2 July 2010, Nadi, Fiji. The training workshop was noted by the 1540 Committee expert as an opportunity for the PIF States to consider incorporating resolution 1540 (2004) requirements in the chemical field, to consider further development of assistance requests made informally at the UNODA-organized Workshop on resolution 1540 (2004) implementation and OCO Annual Conference both in Vanuatu, 2009; and to consider a similar training assistance workshop with regard to the BWC that might be organized with the Geneva-based BWC-Implementation Support Unit. Additionally, New Zealand called for support of its proposed counter-terrorism exercise *Ready Pasifika II* in early 2011; it was noted by the 1540 Committee expert that informal communications or more formal inter-ministerial processes and committees that would be involved with that exercise could also be useful for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Bilateral Dialogues**

The 1540 Committee expert dialogued with participating States to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Dialogue also takes place during periodic post-event briefings for the PIF Missions to the UN in New York, with such a meeting having taken place in October 2010.

5. **Additional comment**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.