

Joint Statement on the cooperation between the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

10 May 2012

O. Summary

On behalf of the Chairpersons of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1989 (2011), 1963 (2010) and 1977 (2011), and earlier resolutions.

For the sake of brevity, I will focus my remarks on the most relevant strategic aspects. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed as hard copy today and made available on the Committee's website.¹

Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It remains important to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) as well as between their respective groups of experts.

The three Committees continue to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, and the group of experts assisting the 1540 Committee.

The Committees welcome the continuing efforts of their expert groups to cooperate on outreach activities and country visits within the respective mandates, to enhance cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, increase exchange of information, participate in joint meetings and maintain reciprocal representation as appropriate.

I am pleased to report that cooperation between the expert groups has increased in some areas (details outlined in the hard copy). At the same time, the Committees see room for further improvement regarding cooperation and cost effectiveness. The expert groups should further enhance their cooperation in line with their respective mandates, in particular with regard to their outreach activities.

¹ <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/chairmanbriefings.shtml>

The Committees note with concern that terrorist groups continue to seek to exploit gaps in the capacity of Member States to fully implement counter-terrorism measures. The Committees' groups of experts can play a pertinent role in advising States seeking assistance in building counter-terrorism capacity.

The Committees welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of the United Nations counter-terrorism activities as well as ensuring greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities with a view to promoting transparency and avoiding duplication, and take note of the recommendation by the Secretary-General, for Member States to consider, to appoint a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, and, in this regard, look forward to the discussions on this initiative, including within their deliberations on further improving cross-institutional coherence of the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

I. Outreach and country visits

The coordinated outreach activities and country visits of the expert groups are important tools for the three Committees in facilitating full implementation of their respective mandates. These tools strengthen dialogue with Member States, help to improve the understanding of the distinct yet complementary mandates of the three Committees, and assist them in the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

I am pleased to report that cooperation between the expert groups has increased in some areas. Since November 2011, all the three expert groups were represented in over a dozen workshops and other outreach events, while more meetings were attended by two of the groups. For example, training to officials of Afghanistan on national reporting within the framework of Security Council Resolutions endorsed by the Government of Afghanistan, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB), from 12-14 December 2011, New York, was attended by CTED, the Monitoring Team and the 1540 experts.

The three expert groups also often participate when another UN body organizes a regional workshop, as in the case of the UNODC-sponsored workshop titled the "Sub-Regional Workshop on UN Security Council Resolutions against Terrorism and the Implementation Mechanisms", held in Cairo, Egypt on 20-21 February 2012. At the same time, all three expert groups are also able to represent each other at meetings in order to maximize resources.

The expert groups also jointly participate in events hosted by non-UN bodies, for example, the periodic meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), where the three expert groups participate in the discussions of the working group on the revision of the FATF standards in terms of how they relate to the work of the three Committees. In addition, because of the newly adopted "Revised FATF Recommendations", which set the international standards on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation, CTED and Monitoring Team have embarked on a new initiative with the FATF to jointly present on the effect of these revised recommendations relevant to their work at the meeting of the Task Force Officials of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group ("ESAAMLG") in Arusha, Tanzania, in April 2012. ESAAMLG is one of the eight FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) which assist Member

States in the implementation of the FATF Recommendations. It is hoped that all three expert groups will be able to continue with this initiative with the other FSRBs. At the same time, the CTED and Monitoring Team have recently cooperated to provide assistance to one ESAAMLG member country and agreed to provide similar assistance to another, with regard to those sections of the legislation of these countries implementing the assets freeze measure under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Furthermore, CTED and Monitoring Team were accepted, together with the UNODC, as an Observer to the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF). In April this year, both expert groups jointly attended the 15th MENAFATF Plenary Meeting in Jeddah. The joint participation of the two expert groups at this meeting is expected to enhance the dialogue between the relevant Security Council Committees and the region of the Middle East and North Africa on matters related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

Outreach to countries and regions was also demonstrated through the joint work of CTED and the Monitoring Team in bringing together experts on financial law and practice from Afghanistan and from member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council in March this year. These efforts were carried out in close cooperation with the UNODC/TPB. Notably, the meeting brought together States that do not have a regional umbrella to discuss matters related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. Therefore, both expert groups explored ways to develop cooperation between the financial intelligence units of the participating Member States with a view to enhancing the control of the financial flows between the relevant jurisdictions.

Several of the country visits organized by CTED have included the participation of the Monitoring Team and, where applicable, the 1540 Committee experts, which advanced the implementation processes of all three Committees. In addition, the Monitoring Team and 1540 Committee experts also participated in the meeting organised by the CTED on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) on incitement issues, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November last year.

II. Cooperation with international, regional and inter-regional organizations

The coordinated approach agreed among the three expert groups with respect to selected organizations was enriched by the significant contribution by the representatives of the CTED and the Monitoring Team at major conferences in late 2011 and during the first quarter of 2012, bringing together a large number of international, regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance cooperation with the Security Council Committees and among organizations themselves to promote full implementation of the respective resolutions. The outcome of such interaction is being used by the expert groups to refine the modalities of information exchange, enhance coordination on technical assistance facilitation and explore further the potential of sub-regional cooperation.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) continues to provide a platform for the three expert groups for enhanced cooperation not only among themselves but also with over thirty UN-system organizations, agencies and programmes concerned with various aspects of counter-terrorism. The three expert groups contribute to the work of several CTITF working

groups relevant to their work. The expert groups also participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative (I-ACT), which is co-chaired by CTED. CTED and the Monitoring Team have also assumed leading roles in other working groups: for example, CTED as co-Chair of the Working Group on 'Border Management relating to Counter-Terrorism', and the Monitoring Team as co-Chair of the Working Group on 'Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes'. The relevant expert groups have also been working proactively within the context of the CTITF Working Group on 'Dialogue, Understanding and Countering the Appeal of Terrorism'. In addition, all three expert groups participated in the CTITF Annual Retreat, from 18-19 December 2011, held in Greentree, New York.

III. Exchange of information

Exchange of information among the expert groups is carried out on a regular basis. They have been sharing information on forthcoming meetings and relevant activities: CTED has regularly shared with the other groups its monthly reports to CTC, including information on its missions that the Executive Director submits to the CTC, while the 1540 experts have prepared information notes on its outreach events which have been posted on the Committee's website.

IV. Joint meetings and representation

The three expert groups continue to hold joint meetings when needed, both between the heads of each team and between the expert teams, in order to prepare for country visits and relevant workshops and to exchange information on particular themes or activities in specific regions or countries. The next joint meeting for all members and heads of the three expert groups is scheduled for this month, and the CTITF Office has also been invited to participate. In addition, the CTC has extended invitations to the other two expert groups when it arranges briefings by visiting officials from intergovernmental organizations, or when thematic briefings of mutual interest are held.

Further information about the activities and mandates of the three Committees and their expert groups may be found on their respective websites below:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc>

<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267>

<http://www.un.org/sc/1540>
