

**Joint Briefing by the Security Council Committees established pursuant to Security
Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004)
13 November 2009**

**Briefing by Ambassador Jorge Urbina, Chairman of the Committee Established
pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

1. At the outset, I am pleased as Chairman of the 1540 Committee, to brief the Security Council on the main developments in the work of the Committee covering the six-month period since the last joint briefing on 26 May 2009. The focus is mainly on the Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and on the open meetings that were held in that framework from 30 September to 2 October 2009. The Committee also carried out other activities regarding outreach, assistance and cooperation with relevant organizations.

Comprehensive Review

2. In response to a request made by the Security Council in resolution 1810 (2008), the 1540 Committee decided to conduct a Comprehensive Review and to report the outcome to the Council by the tentative date of 31 January 2010. The Review is a process using the Committee as a forum for all States and relevant intergovernmental bodies to share experiences and express their views on various aspects of implementation of the resolution. The mandate for conducting the Review, as presented to the Council in a Modalities Paper (document S/2009/170), outlined three objectives: (a) to assess the evolution of risks and threats; (b) to address specific critical issues that have not yet been resolved; and, (c) to identify possible new approaches for the implementation of the resolution. To facilitate this task the Committee invited inputs from of the wider membership of the United Nations and relevant international and regional organizations and identified eight specific elements to be examined with the benefit of substantive background papers prepared by the Committee's group of experts. The topics included: assessment of the impact of the resolution, including through measures taken after its adoption; such as the establishment and enforcement of appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of export control laws and regulations; regional analysis of implementation; assessing existing examination tools or assistance templates or generating new methods to address gaps in implementation, such as guidelines on handling assistance requests; evaluating, as appropriate, the impact of national implementation measures on individuals and due process standards and developing methods for improving cooperation with individual States and international and regional organizations and relevant entities within the United Nations system. Special emphasis was placed on assessing the level of cooperation with the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1540 (2004), 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001).

3. During the three days of open meetings, comprising a general debate and three interactive thematic sessions, participants addressed the broader issue of risks and threats of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The interactive sessions provided an opportunity to debate specific issues emerging from the analysis of challenges and options for action, including those which had been

presented in the background papers. I would also like to mention that, during the Comprehensive Review, a side event gathering representatives of relevant industry, academia and NGOs offered an overview of areas in which civil society can add value to official efforts to implement the resolution.

4. The broad participation during the Comprehensive Review included formal statements and interventions on specific issues made by 41 States and 21 intergovernmental organizations and other entities. On the basis of the sharing of experiences and the articulation of views and proposals made during the review process, the 1540 Committee is currently preparing an outcome document with recommendations to enhance the implementation of resolution 1540.

Outreach activities

5. Since May 2009, the representatives of 1540 Committee and its expert group have actively participated in 20 workshops and other meetings outside United Nations Headquarters to promote full implementation of resolution 1540. These outreach activities were held worldwide: in Africa and the Middle East, in south East and eastern Asia, including the Pacific Island States, in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in eastern and western Europe. The degree of representation varied in accordance with the type of focus of a meeting's agenda and the extent to which aspects of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) were featured.

6. The 1540 Committee has continued to be engaged in the following four types of outreach activities.

(a) *1540-specific regional workshops organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)*: One such regional workshop was organized on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with a focus on capacity building with respect to border and export controls. It was organized for the Central American states in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 8-10 September 2009. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica as the host, UNODA as the organizer and to the sponsors of the event: the European Union and the Governments of Norway and the United States.

(b) *Regional workshops organized in collaboration with other UN bodies*: Following on the experience in Africa during 2007 and 2008, the 1540 Committee experts cooperated with the 1267 Monitoring Team and CTED in co-organizing with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) two "common strategy" regional workshops for countries of the Middle East and the Caribbean. Designed to address the challenges of reporting or otherwise responding to the three Security Council Committees, the workshops were held respectively in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 28-30 June 2009, and in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis, from 7-9 July 2009. The Committee thanks the UNODC for its sponsorship and role in organizing those events, and the Governments of the UAE and St. Kitts and Nevis for hosting the workshops.

- (c) *Regional workshops organized by Member States in cooperation with the 1540 Committee:* Among the new thematic outreach activities are the regional workshops on the implementation aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), organized by Member States with the cooperation of the Committee's group of experts and UNODA. On 23-25 June 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka hosted in Colombo a regional workshop organized by the Government of the United States in cooperation with UNODA on the implementation of resolution 1540 in South Asia, with a focus on border and export control. Similarly, on 5-6 October 2009, the Governments of France and the UAE facilitated the organization of a regional workshop in Abu Dhabi by the French Foundation for Strategic Research and the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. The focus was on the challenges in implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Gulf region, with particular reference to accounting for and securing "related materials" as referred to in operative paragraph 3 of the resolution. The Committee expresses appreciation to the sponsors, organizers and hosts of these events.
- (d) Meetings organized by other organizations or by Member States: Most of the other conferences and workshops were events on a variety of subjects of relevance to the 1540 Committee to which the Committee and its experts were invited. The focus of the meetings ranged from broad issues of proliferation threats to more specific threats of nuclear, chemical or biological terrorism; from challenges of proliferation financing to export controls and prevention of illicit trafficking; from the implementation of relevant international instruments by domestic legislation to the facilitation of assistance for capacity building. Among the sponsoring organizations were: the ASEAN Regional Forum, CARICOM, the European Union, the Financial Action Task Force, (FATF) the League of Arab States, NATO, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), as well as UNODC. The sponsoring or co-sponsoring governments included: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States. The wide range of sponsorship of relevant events has offered new opportunities for the 1540 Committee and its experts to raise awareness about the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) in different settings and to initiate a network of relationships.
- (e) *Country-specific activities:* In addition to regular dialogues with workshop participants from individual countries, there was one event held on the eve of a workshop in Chile when the 1540 expert held intensive consultations with officials from the host country on the issue of national legal frameworks. Another aspect to be developed is a design for country-specific missions to facilitate a State's implementation of resolution 1540, with such missions to include identification of priority areas and requirements for assistance to facilitate such implementation.

Assistance

7. As encouraged in resolution 1810 (2008), the Committee is intensifying efforts to develop its clearing-house function for channeling assistance to Member states. For this purpose the Committee's working Group on Assistance has met to outline a strategy to move forward.

8. By taking stock of requests for assistance, the Committee's experts have been authorized to engage in follow up dialogue with the States concerned to encourage the submission of more developed and specific requests using the assistance template, as appropriate, as it was done in the most recent requests.

Cooperation with other bodies and organizations

9. The close cooperation developing among the 1540 Committee, the 1267 Committee and the 1373 Committee is already outlined in the joint statement delivered on behalf of the three Committee Chairmen. We look forward to further joint efforts, especially in engaging relevant intergovernmental organizations to enhance cooperation in the areas of common interest, such as information exchange and technical assistance. The cooperation of the 1540 Committee with other entities in the UN system is also important. In this regard, we recognize the special role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) as a catalyst for cooperation and coordination in relevant areas.

10. During October, I visited as Chairman of the 1540 Committee three headquarters of international organizations in Europe. I had fruitful discussions with the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization in Brussels, Belgium, which will form a basis for more detailed dialogue at the level of experts. At The Hague, a meeting with the Director General of the OPCW also resulted in mutual understanding about the need to identify specific areas for collaboration. At the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, my second visit to the IAEA allowed detailed briefings and discussions with senior IAEA officials from different divisions, in the context of the nuclear security programme of the Agency. An exchange of letters will outline the steps needed to build closer relationships. On 13 October I had a meeting in Vienna with representatives of OSCE to discuss cooperation with this regional organization.