

Talking Points for the Joint Briefing of three counter-terrorism committees to the Security Council

**Briefing by His Excellency, Ambassador Peter Burian,
Chairman of the Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

(14 November 2007)

This briefing covers the six month-period since the last joint briefing to the Security Council held on 22 May 2007. It also outlines some of the forthcoming activities for promoting full implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540.

Extension of Programme of work

On 14 September 2007, the 1540 Committee adopted its sixth programme of work for the period 1 October 2007 to 28 April 2008. It is essentially a continuation of the programme for the preceding year, covering all aspects of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006). In addition, it includes the preparation of the Committee's report for the second biennium on compliance with resolution 1540 (2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements, to be submitted by 18 April 2008 for consideration by the Security Council.

Reporting on the implementation of Resolution 1540

“The submission of national reports remains among the top priorities for the Committee as it is essential to the Committee's mandate of reporting to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1540. National reports also assist States in taking stock of the measures already in place and in planning additional measure to achieve full implementation of the resolution.” Since the last briefing, one more State, namely, Mauritius has submitted its first report and a few other States have sought advice in preparing their first report. The total number of reporting States has reached 137. Fifty-four states, mostly in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands regions are yet to submit their first reports. Of the 85 States that had already submitted relevant additional information four – Argentina, Cyprus, Mexico and the United States – have provided

supplementary information on new legislation, administrative arrangements or action plans that they have put in place.

“The Committee held a thematic discussion in July to assess the problem and to adopt an approach to speed up the process. As part of this approach, the Committee has sent letters to all Member States of the United Nations to remind them of the reporting request and to seek additional information. Included with the letters were copies of the States' matrices which were prepared under the direction of the 1540 Committee. The information in the matrices originates primarily from national reports and is complemented by official government information, including that made available to inter-governmental organisations. In the case of States that have not yet submitted a first report a draft matrix was sent to facilitate the preparation of a report. The Committee has requested all the Member States to reply by 15 December 2007 so that, in preparing the April 2008 report to the Security Council, the Committee may present a more complete picture on the status of implementation of the resolution.

Outreach activities

The Committee relies heavily on outreach activities to promote full implementation of resolution 1540. Through tailored dialogue, seminars and workshops it seeks to generate awareness and promote implementation of the resolution; to encourage the reporting process and the sharing of relevant national experiences; and to facilitate assistance geared to implementation. A thematic discussion, held in October, recognized the need to pursue a phased approach to the Committee's outreach activities and determined that future activities would focus less on the issue of reporting and more on assisting States to fully implement the resolution.

During the past six months, the Committee has engaged in three types of outreach activities:

(1) UNODA Workshops on Implementation of Resolution 1540. Three workshops have been organized during this period.

(a) A workshop, which focused primarily on reporting by the Caribbean States, was held in Jamaica from 29-30 May 2007.

(b) A workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 by Arab States was held in Jordan from 4-5 September 2007.

(c) A workshop focused on reporting by African States is scheduled to be held in Botswana from 27-28 November 2007.

(2) Common Strategy Workshops on Reporting for West and Central African States. This UNODC-sponsored sub-regional workshop, held in Senegal, from 25-27 September, was the first workshop organized jointly by CTED, the 1267 Monitoring Team and the 1540 Committee Experts, together with UNODC as a co-organizer. The workshop brought several officials from each country to Dakar to discuss with the three expert groups the issue of reporting. A similar workshop for Southern African States will be held in Botswana, from 29-30 November 2007, following the UNODA workshop mentioned above.

It should also be mentioned that the Committee's experts have been participating in other UNODC –sponsored events, including a workshop organized jointly with the Pacific Island Forum, in Fiji in June 2007.

(3) Other outreach events. Upon invitation by other bodies the Chairman and the Committee's experts have actively participated in a number of seminars and workshops of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee. The Committee has sought to generate wider support for the objectives of resolution 1540, within different areas of implementation.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the host countries and the sponsors of its outreach activities.

Assistance

In view of the importance of organizing technical and other assistance for the full implementation of resolution 1540, an effort is made in all the outreach activities to explain the need for States to be specific in their requests so as to facilitate matching with offers of assistance. Following its thematic discussion on assistance during May 2007," the Committee has adopted a set of decisions on assistance related issues and is currently developing a template for helping States in submitting detailed requests for assistance. In July, a meeting of selected

assistance providers was organized, with the assistance of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, to discuss ways in which the Committee could increase its role in assisting States with the full implementation of the resolution. The meeting was attended by representatives of a number of States and international and other intergovernmental organizations active in this area. Through the meeting, it became clear that specific information on both requests and offers of assistance would enable the Committee to better fulfill its clearing house function.

Cooperation

Under the common strategy arrangement, the Committee and its experts are broadening their cooperation with CTC and the 1267 Committee and their respective experts, with valuable support from the joint events organized by UNODC, including the funding of a consultant to advise Caribbean Governments on the preparation of reports to the three committees.

Efforts to develop cooperation with the relevant international organizations are ongoing. Visits by the Chairman and the Committee experts to Brussels, The Hague and Vienna, pursuant to the Council debate on the subject in February, have resulted in the identification of specific areas for day-to-day practical cooperation with the European Union, the World Customs Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency.