

# Talking Points

by Ambassador Burian  
the Chairman of the 1540 Committee

For the Briefing of Outgoing Chairmen to the Security Council  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2007

1. First of all let me brief the members of the Security Council of the efforts that the Committee has made during the past two years towards full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I am pleased to note today that considerable progress has been made in this regard but more effort is needed in the next period to achieve full implementation of all aspects of the resolution.

## State of Reporting

2. As of today, about 140 States have submitted their first reports and about 90 have submitted additional information, and more reports are expected in the next few days. The number of non-reporting States is coming down from the low fifties, as more States in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region respond to our intensive outreach activities and to the last round of correspondence. As will be spelled out later, the efforts of the Committee and its expert are now making a difference in coping with the challenges often mentioned by a number of those States to delay their reporting, especially the complexity of the provisions of the resolution and the lack of capacity in many States to respond the multiplicity of reporting requests by UN bodies.
3. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee have recently urged all Member States, at regional group meetings in New York, to respond urgently to the Committee's request for more information, and we are hopeful for positive results by mid January, at the latest, to facilitate the preparation of the second biennial report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution due by the end of April 2008.

## Matrix application

4. By supplementing the information obtained directly from national reports by official information from States posted on the websites of international bodies, it has been possible to present a more complete picture of the status of implementation in each country. This approach also allowed the Committee and its experts to create a draft matrix to share with non-reporting States to facilitate identification of relevant information for use in their first reports. The matrix has been used by the Committee and its experts as a basis for informed dialogue with each State on how to address any shortcomings in implementation as reflected in gaps in the matrix, including through assistance for capacity building or technical advice from bilateral or multilateral donors.
5. The Committee has relied heavily on outreach activities to encourage further reporting and promote full implementation of resolution 1540. Through seminars, workshops and tailored dialogue it has generated greater awareness about the process and necessity of reporting, has fostered the sharing of relevant national experiences, and has created more understanding of requirements for assistance. A thematic discussion on outreach activities held last October recognized the need for a phased approach and recommended that future outreach activities should focus less on the issue of reporting and more on assisting States with the issues of implementation.

### Assistance

6. Based on observations from our outreach activities and interaction with member states the Committee concluded that for the full implementation of resolution 1540, it is important for many States to receive relevant assistance. For the Committee to perform its clearing house function effectively, it is necessary for the assistance request to be specific. For this purpose the Committee has prepared a template, which is being sent to all States. Matching requests and offers of assistance is essential and the committee will utilize its website as a tool for such a purpose.

### Cooperation with other entities

7. The importance of cooperation with relevant international organizations was given special attention when the Security Council devoted an open session last February at which States as well as the IAEA, the OPCW and the WCO explored modalities for cooperation.
8. Under the common strategy arrangement, the Committee and its experts are broadening their cooperation with CTC and the 1267 Committee and their respective experts.
9. The Committee has intensified its contacts also with other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and multilateral arrangements with potential to contribute to implementation of resolution 1540 through their programmes and expertise in conformity with the mandate of the Committee.
10. Last but not least the Committee in cooperation with UN ODA organized a meeting in July 2007 with participation of several NGOs engaged in activities supporting implementation of resolution 1540 to discuss issues of cooperation, interaction and possible harmonization of outreach activities and existing programmes. I believe these contacts and dialogue should be further expanded reaching out also to parliamentarians and private sector.

### Conclusions

11. In conclusion let me share with you some personal observations and suggestions for the way forward in the work of the Committee:
  - First of all it is important to underline that implementation of Resolution 1540 is a long-term and requires sustained effort and imaginative approach. The positive momentum that has been created by an intensified work of the Committee should be utilized now for creating a truly global and effective system of prevention of proliferation of WMD to non-state actors;
  - The broadest degree of international cooperation and interaction between the States, IGOs, NGOs and other entities, including the private sector is needed to achieve the goals of resolution 1540;
  - There is a need to strengthen a synergy and complementarities of action of various international bodies in implementation of resolution 1540. The UN and the UN SC 1540 Committee in particular can contribute to bringing various players together to harmonize or coordinate, as appropriate, their activities to this end;
  - The open debate of the Security Council with IGOs in February to discuss cooperation in implementation of resolution 1540 has been the right step in this direction. This practice

should continue regularly and the participation of IGOs or multilateral arrangements relevant to implementation of resolution 1540, could be further expanded;

- We need to build on what has been achieved so far in and expand the practical cooperation with IGOs such as the IAEA OPCW, WCO and others. It will be important to address some objective and subjective obstacles for even a greater interaction;
- The role of regional and sub-regional organizations like EU, OSCE, OAS, ASEAN, African Union, League of Arab States, CARICOM, MERCOSUR and others in raising awareness of importance of and supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 in their respective regions should be further strengthened. Regional organizations can (among other things) facilitate sharing good national practices and lessons learned from national implementation between the countries of regions and develop frameworks of regional cooperation between the regional experts and institutions dealing with different aspects of resolution 1540;
- The proactive engagement of the 1540 Committee with those organizations should become one of its outreach priorities in the near future;
- The Committee could also explore the possibilities of furthering cooperation with NGOs using the positive momentum and interest of NGOs in closer interaction with the Committee expressed during the meeting in July. The NGOs proved to have valuable expertise and potential in supporting the work of the 1540 Committee in various regions through organizing tailored workshops aimed at facilitating national implementation of resolution 1540;
- Last but not least engagement with parliamentarians and the private sector should be also intensified to help educate the legislators and business people on importance of implementation of resolution 1540 for national security and international trade to win their interest and support for these issues;
- In practical work of the Committee the main focus should shift away from reporting to implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540. In this regard tailored outreach and assistance, which is responsive to regional and other specific circumstances, could help the Member States cope with the challenges of implementation. As the Committee stated in its work program, national plans or road maps of implementation can serve States as useful planning tools and this idea should be further promoted. The interested countries should receive more assistance in developing their national action plans;
- The clearing house function of the Committee should be further developed using the assistance template as a tool. In this regard the Committee should finalize the discussion on how its website can be better used to facilitate the initial contacts between assistance providers and countries requesting assistance and how it can help the flow of information on request of assistance and assistance offered;
- To enable more active assistance of experts to individual countries the possibility of a trust fund for country visits by experts should be considered;
- I believe the mandate of the Committee should be extended and the continuity of the Expert Group preserved without preventing gradual rotation;
- Mr. President, finally let me thank the members of the Committee and the experts for their outstanding work.