

New York
20 July 2005

**Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the progress achieved by the 1540 Committee in its work since April 26th, 2005 and to introduce the Committee's second programme of work for the period 1 July to 30 September 2005.

Examination of national reports

At the first joint briefing that took place on 25 April 2005 I informed the Security Council that the 1540 Committee had entered the substantive stage of its work, and had begun examining national reports, with a view to monitoring States implementation of resolution 1540.

The Committee, with the support of its experts, has already examined more than 50 national reports, as indicated in the first programme of work. All information contained in the first national reports examined by the Committee has been summarized in the form of a matrix that reflects provisions of the resolution. Additional information identified by the Committee in the official public data provided by States to UN, IAEA and OPCW and other international organizations on steps they have taken in the areas covered by resolution 1540 has also been included into the matrix.

On the basis of this examination and for the purpose of completing its knowledge of the steps States have taken or intend to take in responding to the obligations set forth in resolution 1540, the Committee is reaching out to reporting States with a view to soliciting additional information or to seeking clarification in areas covered by their first reports. The letters requesting additional information or/and clarifications have been addressed to the Missions in New York. In the spirit of transparency the Committee decided to share the matrix with reporting States.

The Committee is determined to pursue the examination of first national reports in an accelerated manner. Our work is now supported by a group of 8 experts. I am confident that the goal of completing the examination of first round country reports could be attained by October 2005.

Based on additional information which we hope will be provided by States in response to the Committee's letters and matrices, the Committee will continue to monitor and facilitate the efforts undertaken by all States to implement resolution 1540.

Reporting

By April 2006, the Committee will have to provide sufficient information to enable the Security Council to assess the progress States have made in implementing the resolution.

The Committee can properly fulfill its mandate if all States report to the Committee, as the Council has called upon them to do. Without information, the Committee will not be able to present to the Security Council a comprehensive picture regarding measures put in place or planned by all States to implement the provisions of the resolution.

As of today, 118 States have submitted reports to the Committee. We welcome the fact that the majority of UN Member States have presented information about their domestic non-proliferation provisions, including on their contributions to international cooperation in this field.

However, 74 Member States have yet to report. I would like to use this opportunity to renew my call to those who have not yet done so to submit reports without delay.

We recognize that some States may encounter administrative difficulties in reporting. Nevertheless, we would be grateful if they could so inform the Committee, which would facilitate assistance to them in order to comply with the reporting requirements.

Other States might consider that they have nothing to report, as they neither possess WMDs nor the capacity to develop such weapons or related materials. However, there are other ways in which non-State actors might seek to exploit their territory – using it to ship goods across in transit, or for financing of illegal activity, or as a base to broker the sale of WMD-related goods in other countries.

Recent events have shown that nobody is shielded from these threats. States should be aware that unless they meet their obligations in full, by enacting and enforcing national legal and regulatory measures and by committing to international cooperation on non-proliferation, their territories could be exploited in the worst possible way. We realise that implementing fully the provisions of 1540 in many States will be a long-term project, but the Committee is fully committed to supporting that work, which must start now. A full report to the Committee can kick-start the process of assistance.

As Chairman of 1540 Committee, I will continue to raise the issue of further reporting through the outreach activities that the Committee intends to conduct in the near future. We will continue to talk to all countries that have yet to report. The Committee is also

considering the possibility of reaching out to Member States through international and regional organizations. Regional seminars and workshops aimed at raising the awareness of the problem worldwide and facilitating further reporting are also envisaged. I am very encouraged that the issue of improving reporting performance and late submissions will be considered in a coordinated manner by our Committees.

Assistance

In considering national reports, the Committee has already identified both needs and offers of assistance. We are encouraged by the fact that many countries are already helping with expertise and advice to Member States lacking knowledge, experience or resources to implement resolution 1540.

In addition, the offers of assistance contained in the first national reports were summarized and presented to all States. The Committee indicated in which areas assistance can be provided by a specific country, as well as the way in which contacts for assistance could be established on a bilateral basis.

The Committee will continue to develop its work in this area, including the possibility of acting as a clearing house on the issue of assistance. We stand ready to consider all requests from States seeking help to implement resolution 1540 and to facilitate contacts with donor countries and organizations. As an additional measure, the Committee has appointed a coordinator among the experts who will manage assistance related issues, with the support of DDA.

Full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term objective that obviously goes beyond the current mandate of the Committee. It will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels on capacity-building and assistance, as well as monitoring and measuring progress made by States in implementing this resolution.

I am confident that the Security Council will consider how best to ensure that the work of the Committee makes an enduring contribution to non-proliferation.

Interaction with international organizations

The Committee has continued its interaction with the IAEA and the OPCW on ways these organizations can support our work and contribute to the implementation process of resolution 1540.

As the examination process of national reports continues, the Committee will interact and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540. Working relationships with these organizations are being developed as appropriate.

In the same vein, the 1540 Committee will maintain close cooperation with the CTC and the Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee, as envisaged in resolution 1566 (2004) and the statement by the President of the Security Council of 25 April 2005 (S/PRST/2005/16). The Committee's experts will work closely with the experts of the other Committees, making every effort to maximize the synergies between and among the experts of the other Committees.

Transparency

Transparency will remain a hallmark in the work of the 1540 Committee. The Chairman and the Vice-chairmen will reach out on a regular basis to the UN Member States. This will include work with the UN Media, including through joint briefings with the Chairmen of the CTC and the Committee on Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions. The Committee will keep updating its dedicated website as an additional source of information on issues related to resolution 1540. A separate entry on assistance will soon be added to this website.

The Committee will also continue its practice of informing organizations outside the UN about our work through attendance at international, regional and sub-regional meetings and conferences. I will make full use of these opportunities to address in particular the issues of further reporting and assistance.

I would like to reiterate my call last April on each Member State to designate Points of Contact for resolution 1540, both in New York and in their capitals, and make direct contact with the Committee's members and its experts on matters related to resolution 1540.

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to the cooperation of all States as the Committee goes forward with its work in the months ahead.

I thank You, Mr. President.