

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

(21 February 2006)

I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the activities undertaken by the 1540 Committee since 4 January 2006 when I was appointed as Chairman of the 1540 Committee, and to introduce the Committee's fourth programme of work covering the period 1 January to 28 April 2006.

Examination of national reports

The main task ahead of the Committee is to complete by 31 March 2006 the examination of additional information provided by States in response to the letters addressed to them by the Committee in the second part of last year. During this period the Committee and its experts will continue engaging in informal interaction with the Missions in New York and the designated Points of Contact in capitals in order to clarify, where necessary, any issue arising from their correspondence with the 1540 Committee, in particular on the issues related to national reports.

The examination of national reports is an important part of monitoring States' efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). The outcome of this process will be addressed in the report on the implementation of resolution 1540 that the Committee has to submit to the Security Council by 28 April 2006.

In this regard, I would like to inform the Council that 64 States have provided additional information to their first reports. All these data, as well as any incoming first report will continue to be processed by the Committee.

Establishment of legislative database

In order to deepen its knowledge about States' efforts to implement resolution 1540, the Committee decided to use information offered by States to build a database to bring together information about States' legislation in one place.

I am very pleased to announce today that the database has been finalized. It contains links to public sources of information about legislative and other regulatory measures relevant for the implementation of resolution 1540, from States that have reported to the Committee.

The database is constructed on the basis of information provided by these States in their reports submitted to the 1540 Committee, as well as on other relevant information that states have made public on their governmental websites or provided to international and regional organizations.

In the spirit of transparency, the Committee will share the database with States to seek their comments and consent to make public the information the database contains about their legislation. The Committee intends to place the database on its official website. It may be used as background data by countries seeking legislative reference or

information in their efforts aimed at establishing, developing, reviewing and maintaining appropriate effective legislation, in accordance with their national procedures, to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

Reporting and outreach

Facilitation of further reporting and conduct of outreach activities remain at the top of our agenda. Without all countries reporting, as the Council has called upon them to do, the Committee cannot provide a holistic and truly comprehensive report to enable the Security Council to assess the progress all Member States have made in implementing the resolution.

As of today, 67 Member States have yet to submit any report. I would like to call again on those who have not yet done so, to submit their first reports without further delay. While the Committee will appreciate receiving further first reports at any time, however, it will be difficult to include information submitted late in the Committee's report to the Security Council.

Reporting is the best tool to allow the Committee to account for States' implementation efforts and to promote assistance for those who encounter reporting or implementation difficulties.

The Committee recognises that full implementation of the resolution will be a long-term undertaking which needs continuous dialogue and co-ordination.

The fact is that all States are vulnerable to being used by non-State actors who might want to gain access to WMD and their means of delivery. The best defence is for States to implement resolution 1540 in full, such as by enacting and enforcing effective national legal and regulatory measures. Otherwise, others will interpret that their territories may be used for shipping of WMD and related materials across or in transit, or for financing illegal activities, or as a safe haven to broker the sale of WMD-related materials in other countries.

The Committee will continue to raise the issue of further reporting and to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 through outreach activities.

I will continue to approach formally and informally all countries that have yet to report. In the coming days I will send a new reminder to their respective Missions in New York, and I will also continue the practice of reaching out to the members of all regional groups in New York.

I have already planned to meet the Member States from the African Group next month. Informal interaction with other regional groups will follow.

The Committee, with the support of Member States and the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, will continue its outreach activities on the basis of existing financial resources. Seminars and workshops aimed at raising the awareness of proliferation problems worldwide, facilitating further reporting, and advancing the implementation process, are useful tools for helping to succeed in our work.

The three Committees consider the issues of improving reporting and late submission in a coordinated manner. We are making use of country visits by the CTC and the 1267 Committee in order to raise the issue of reporting with the states these bodies visit.

Interaction with international organizations

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.

The 1540 Committee will maintain close cooperation with the CTC and the 1267 Committee, as envisaged in resolution 1566 (2004) and the relevant statements by the President of the Security Council adopted during previous joint briefings in 2005. The Committee's experts work closely with their colleagues, making every effort to maximize synergies between and among the experts of these three Committees.

Transparency

Transparency remains a priority for our work. 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 1267 Committee. The Committee will keep updating its dedicated website as a source of information on issues related to resolution 1540.

Within the existing resources, the Committee will continue its practice of informing organizations outside the UN about its work through attendance in meetings and conferences. I will make full use of these opportunities to address, in particular, the issues of reporting and implementation.

Assistance

In further examining the first reports and additional information from States, the Committee will collect up-to-date information on matters relating to assistance in order to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I will continue to request States to up-date the information already provided to the Committee regarding their Points of Contact and States yet to do so to designate Points of Contact on assistance and to inform the Committee in this regard.

As I mentioned before, full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term objective that goes beyond the current mandate of the Committee. As the end of the current mandate is approaching, the Committee is being engaged in considering how best to continue its work to provide an enduring contribution to ensuring the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their means of delivery and related materials.

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