

**Briefing by H.E. Mr. Johan Verbeke,  
Chairman of the Security Council Committee  
established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)  
concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and  
Associated Individuals and Entities,  
to the Security Council on 6 May 2008  
(comprehensive version)**

Mr. President,

1. The sanctions regime established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and other relevant resolutions is a powerful tool in the fight against Al-Qaida and Taliban related terrorism as the measures taken against individuals and entities on the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee's Consolidated List are universal in nature and can hence complement measures taken at the national, regional and sub-regional levels.
2. The annual report, submitted to the Security Council on 18 January 2008, contains an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007, which aimed at improving the effectiveness and the implementation of the sanctions regime.

**I. The Committee's Consolidated List**

Mr President,

3. Improving the quality of the Consolidated List continues to be at the core of the Committee's work and in this regard, I would like to stress that the Committee relies on the information provided by Member States to update the List.
4. Since my last briefing on 14 November 2007, the Committee has added to the List the names of 5 individuals associated with Al-Qaida. It has considered 3 de-listing requests, two of which submitted through the Focal Point for De-Listing: 2 requests could not be acceded to and 1 is still under consideration. The Committee has also made improvements to the existing identifying information of 49 individuals and 5 entities associated with Al-Qaida, and of 6 individuals associated with the Taliban.
5. I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Council that the Committee remains committed to examining all information provided to it which could improve the quality of the List. On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank all Member States who have contributed to this process. I strongly encourage them to continue and others to do the same. Indeed, it is the prerogative, but also the collective responsibility of all of us to bring to the attention of the Committee any information that one believes should be included in or deleted from the List. Our common objective should be to have a dynamic List that reflects the evolution of the threat posed by Al-Qaida and Taliban. In this respect and given the increasingly strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, I would like to underline once again the possibility for Member States to submit for listing the names of drug traffickers involved in the financing of Al-Qaida and the Taliban as provided for in paragraph 12 of resolution 1735 (2006).

6. On its side, the Committee has also taken several initiatives that could assist Member States. Let me mention a few of them:
  1. The introductory page of the Consolidated List on the Committee's website as well as the guidance note on how to search the Consolidated List have been updated;
  2. Section E containing the names of individuals and entities that have been removed from the List has now been separated from the rest of the Consolidated List. Information formerly contained in this section continues to be made available to users for any possible reference purposes and can now be found in the "De-listing" section of the Committee's website;
  3. Based on the revised action plan approved by the Committee in April 2007, the first batch of UN Security Council / INTERPOL Special Notices for entities on the Committee's list will be issued shortly, in addition to the existing notices for individuals.
7. Pursuant to paragraph 6 (i) of its guidelines, the Committee initiated a further review of the Consolidated List with a view to possibly amending those entries on the List that have not been updated for four or more years. In order to be as much inclusive as possible, the names whose entries had been updated with amendments of a non-substantive nature were not excluded. Out of the 184 possible names for this edition, 38 have been selected for review by Members of the Committee. On behalf of the Committee, I encourage the Member States who will be approached shortly in this process to cooperate as much as they can with the Committee so that improvements can be made to those entries on the List. The Committee also intends to evaluate the review process after the conclusion of this year's review.
8. Furthermore, the Committee has asked the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to update the Cover Sheet included in annex I to resolution 1735 (2006), which can be used by States to report additional information to the Committee. The Team is also working on proposals for naming conventions for the names on the List as differences exist in various regions of the world. The Committee is also exploring ways to facilitate and accelerate the dissemination of the List and its regular updates. Indeed, any delay between the decision taken by the Committee and the implementation on the ground undermines the effectiveness of the sanctions regime.
9. The Committee welcomes any suggestion from Member States regarding the Consolidated List and I can assure you that the Committee considers with great interest the views expressed by States when the Monitoring Team reports on its visits and contacts with Member States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations. Increased information sharing between the Committee and Member States is absolutely essential in the constant pursuit to improve the Consolidated List. I would like to reiterate that the Committee, in its report on the Monitoring Team's Seventh Report (S/2008/16), encouraged States to report when they encounter problems of implementation as a result of a lack of identifiers. Such information would help the Committee to consider, with assistance of the designating State or States and, where appropriate, with the States of nationality or residence, how to improve the relevant entries.

## II. Issues Currently on the Committee's Agenda

Mr. President,

10. During the last six months, most of the Committee's activities have been derived from its consideration of the Seventh report of the Monitoring Team. A report reflecting the Committee's position on the recommendations contained therein (S/2008/16) was submitted to the Security Council on 8 January 2008. Since then the Committee has been focusing its work on the follow-up with a view to translating its position into concrete actions.
11. Different discussions were held on the issues related to the 3 sanctions measures. The Committee has started considering draft Explanation of terms on the assets freeze and the travel ban as well as a revised version of the one on the arms embargo. Those documents, if approved by the Committee would be made available and should help Member States in the implementation of their obligations. Other topics that were addressed pertained to global and partial listings, the acquisition of arms by intermediaries and third parties on behalf of individuals, and the illicit arms trafficking by air.
12. The Committee has also been exploring ways to further improve its procedures. As a result, a standard form for de-listing has been developed and is now available in the de-listing section of the Committee's website. This is an optional tool that can be used either by a petitioner to submit a de-listing request to the Focal Point or by a State to submit a de-listing request to the Committee. The Committee is also examining the procedure for removing names of deceased individuals and considering the further revision of its guidelines with regard to exemptions to the assets freeze and to the travel ban with a view to providing further guidance to Members States.
13. Since my last briefing on 14 November 2007, the Committee has received 4 notifications for humanitarian exemptions under paragraph 1(a) and one request for extraordinary expenses under paragraph 1(b) of resolution 1452 (2002). No negative decision has been taken by the Committee in respect of any of the notifications under paragraph 1(a). Likewise, the request under paragraph 1(b) has been approved. No request for an exemption to the travel has been submitted.
14. Pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 1735 (2006), the Committee continued its discussion on the identification of possible cases of non-compliance with the sanctions measures, based on a background paper prepared by the Monitoring Team. With the objective of improving the effectiveness and the implementation of the sanctions regime, the Committee (a) discussed each possible case of non-compliance mentioned in the Monitoring Team's report, and (b) derived horizontal recommendations from this empirical analysis aimed at preventing the occurrence of such cases. Action taken by the Committee on specific cases included gathering additional information, informal demarches by the Chairman with Permanent Representatives, Monitoring Team's engagement and subsequent reporting to the Committee, as well as letters to the concerned States. I reported to the Security Council on the Committee's consideration of this matter in a briefing held on 24 April

2008. Identifying possible cases of non-compliance constitutes an ongoing exercise and the Committee will continuously follow up on these.

15. The Committee further considered the issue of the criminal misuse of the Internet by Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates for terrorist purposes. The Committee shares the concerns expressed by Member States over the fact that the Internet constitutes a powerful medium and instrument for Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates. The Committee thoroughly studied papers submitted by the Monitoring Team and found that they provide a good opportunity for the Committee to express its opinion on the matter. Although this is a complex issue of which certain aspects clearly go beyond the Committee's mandate, it was agreed to continue the discussion in the future.
16. The Committee is also, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team, continuing to build its links with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations and agencies (IROs) in order to develop new tools to assist Member States in implementing the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions measures. In this regard, the Committee will be reviewing its IROs strategy and the new proposals submitted by the Monitoring Team for enhanced cooperation with key IROs. The briefing by Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to the Committee on 21 April 2008 was extremely useful in this context.
17. This week, the Committee is starting its consideration of the Eighth report of the Monitoring Team, which was submitted to the Committee on 31 March 2008, in accordance with Annex II, paragraph c) of resolution 1735 (2006). The report will be shortly transmitted to the Council and the Committee has the intention to prepare a report that would reflect its position on the recommendations contained therein.

### **III. Outreach and Dialogue with Member States**

Mr. President,

18. Further enhancing the dialogue with Member States and increasing the transparency of its work remains one of the primary concerns of the Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 31 of resolution 1735 (2006), I gave another open briefing to all interested Member States on 18 December 2007. In this briefing, I mainly focused on the current work of the Committee and the Monitoring Team with a view to providing more information to Member States on issues of mutual concern. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team briefly outlined the main findings of the Monitoring Team's seventh report. I was very impressed with the broad resonance to the briefing, and pleased to see that a number of delegations actively engaged in the subsequent dialogue.
19. Another way to interact with Member States is through country visits. In accordance with paragraph 30 of resolution 1735 (2006), I have undertaken, as Chairman, a trip to selected countries in the Sahel region of West Africa, namely Mauritania, Senegal and Mali, which took place from 29 March to 5 April 2008. I want to thank the authorities of the visited countries for their cooperation. Several incidents that had

occurred in the region during the months prior to the trip had underlined once more that the terrorist threat in the Sahel region is real. Whereas all three countries had a good understanding of the sanctions regime and demonstrated their strong commitment in the common efforts to counter terrorism, authorities also clearly expressed their need for assistance in further strengthening their capacities.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1735 (2006), the Committee met yesterday with representatives of Denmark, Liechtenstein, Sweden and Switzerland for an in-depth discussion on issues relevant to the 1267 sanctions regime. This exchange of views has been, I think, of mutual benefit and I would therefore like to encourage others to do the same as dialogue of this nature is in my view essential for both the Committee and the Member States. In this regard, suggestions and experiences accumulated by States can be shared with the Committee allowing the Committee to better address their implementation challenges.
21. On their side and in addition to accompanying me in my recent trip, the experts of Monitoring Team traveled to eight Member States to discuss issues regarding the effective implementation of the sanctions regime, two of these were joint trips with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The Team has also participated in UNODC/Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) technical missions to two States. They also convened two meetings of heads and deputy heads of intelligence and security services from two groups of countries, one from the Middle East and North Africa with Pakistan and the other from South East Asia, to discuss the threat from Al-Qaida and Al-Qaida-related groups in these regions and ways in which to increase the impact of the sanctions regime.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Mr President,

22. I would like to seize this opportunity to sincerely thank the experts of the Monitoring Team for their invaluable support and contribution to the work of the Committee. Their input and proposals for all issues on the Committee's agenda have been highly appreciated and have undoubtedly contributed to the progress made so far.

Mr. President,

23. It is clear from events in past months that the threat from Al-Qaida and the Taliban has not diminished. Within the United Nations efforts, the Committee is committed to continue, in cooperation with Member States, to do its share of responsibility in this global endeavor. To this end, the Committee looks forward to the further guidance from the Security Council i.a. through the resolution to be adopted in June.

I thank you Mr President.

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