

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop on the Regional Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Eastern Africa
- Date and Venue:** 27-28 July 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Organizer:** UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia; supported by the Governments of Austria, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States.
- Participants:** *States:* Senior officials from ministries dealing with law enforcement, justice, foreign affairs: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania (U.R.), and Uganda; *Observers:* Austria, Germany, Israel, Nigeria, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. *International Organizations:* African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, African Union, UN Department of Safety and Security, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, INTERPOL, UN CTITF, UNESCO, UN Information Center (Nairobi), UN Office of Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch, UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, 1267 Monitoring Team, CTED/CTC expert, 1540 Committee expert. *Non-governmental Organizations:* Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation; Center on Policies to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism; Institute of Security Studies (South Africa).

1. Objectives for 1540 participation

- Participate in the workshop, presenting requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), with reference to the common areas between the resolution and related counter-terrorism efforts, e.g., in the area of border controls and law enforcement;
- Establish/expand working contacts and dialogue with officials from Eastern African States and with representatives of international bodies, including from civil society, on implementation of resolution 1540, including in the area of assistance;
- Identify information on other implementation efforts undertaken in the region conducted or related to resolution 1540 (2004), including capacity-building efforts.

2. Background

CTITF was established by the Secretary General in 2005 “to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations System”. The CTITF brings together 31 entities and observers, including the 1540 Committee experts, to work with each other and States in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) adopted in September 2006. The Strategy has a plan of action that States can undertake through four “pillars” of measures, including the prevention and combat of terrorism (pillar II) and the building of States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard (pillar III).²

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

² Pillar I concerns addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and pillar IV concerns ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in counter-terrorism efforts.

In addressing of all aspects of the Strategy, the workshop in Addis Ababa discussed issues of national implementation and regional coordination, including institutional and practical responses to address the problem of terrorism in the region. Presentations and discussion on measures under pillars II and III complement measures required by resolution 1540, in particular on border and export controls and related assistance and capacity-building to prevent illicit trafficking.

The workshop provided an opportunity for 1540 Committee experts to build on previous dialogues with officials from participating States on their implementation of resolution 1540: in meetings with their Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, and at regional workshops organized by: UNODA on implementation of resolution 1540 in African States,, held in Accra, Ghana (2006), Gaborone, Botswana (2007) and Cairo, Egypt (2009); UNODC/TPB jointly with CTED, the 1267 MT and the 1540 expert groups to encourage reporting by States in Africa, held in Gaborone, Botswana (2007) and Nairobi, Kenya (2008); and the BWC-Implementation Support Unit on the Biological Weapons Convention for States in west and central Africa, held in Abuja, Nigeria (October 2010) (see full listings at www.un.org/sc/1540/outreachevents.shtml).

3. Highlights and Discussion

The workshop³ highlighted various issues, including developments on piracy and terrorist activity, which preoccupied governments in the region and affected their implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and related Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004). Discussion focused on the situation in Somalia, in particular on the impact of the activities of the Al-Shabaab group on regional stability. Reference was also made to the July 2011 report of the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea (at www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2011/433).

Attention was drawn to a holistic approach to counter-terrorism which brought in civil society, educational institutions, religious groups and other entities not normally associated with counter-terrorism, which enhanced traditional counter-terrorism efforts as demonstrated by experience in other parts of Africa. Participating States shared their experiences on the need for legislation, the rule of law, and measures to improve border controls and related border management issues. One State suggested harmonizing legislation on prohibitions and their implementation in the region. Regional organizations shared respective experiences on their contributions and assistance programmes to address justice and the rule of law in countering terrorism.

Concluding remarks by CTITF⁴ summarized key conclusions and outlined potential options which the States in the region (in partnership with international and regional organizations, and partners in capacity-building) can pursue to improve counter-terrorism efforts.

4. Bilateral Consultations

The 1540 Committee expert provided matrices and conducted dialogues with States' delegations updating points of contact and receiving additional information on implementation as available.

5. Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.

³ Press release at www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf/regional_workshop_eastern_africa.shtml.

⁴ Remarks posted at www.un.org/terrorism/pdfs/Closing_Remarks_Addis_2011.pdf.