

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** Meeting of Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT)
- Organised by:** Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in coordination with the Government of New Zealand
- Date and Venue:** 4 May 2011; Auckland, New Zealand
- Key Participants:** *PIF Member States:* Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.  
*Other States; international organisations and entities:* United States; Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), UN Office of Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Director and Expert, UNSCR 1540 Committee Expert; (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) invited but could not attend due to OCO annual conference at the same time).

### **1. Objectives of 1540 Participation**

- Continue dialogue with officials from the Pacific Island States on implementation of resolution 1540, updating points of contact in capitals and their UN Missions in New York.
- In line with resolution 1540 calling on States to promote universal adoption of the main WMD multilateral treaties, continue to encourage PIF States to consider accession to the Biological Weapons Convention, this region having a large number of non-States Party.
- Identify and develop areas for assistance and capacity building, continuing to build on previous dialogues with PIF States and relevant international and regional organisations.

### **2. Background**

Participation in The Pacific Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) Meeting contributes to builds upon the 1540 Committee and experts' ongoing dialogues and cooperation with States and organisations on implementation of resolution 1540 in the Pacific region. These previous activities involving direct 1540 Committee member and expert participation included:

- Workshop on radiological material security and safety in the Pacific, Vanuatu, 28 April 2009 (organised by New Zealand under auspices of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism);
- UNODA-organised workshop on regional implementation of resolution 1540, Vanuatu, 29 April-1May 2009;
- the 2009 Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) Annual Conference (4-8 May 2009 following the UNODA workshop above);

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- annual meetings of the Pacific Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held consecutively with the PIFS Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC), June 2008-2010; and for the years 2007-2009, preceded by workshops of the UNODC/TPB-PIFS.

In this region, sequencing of several meetings facilitates participation of PIF States to account for varying travel logistics across the Pacific and of others from further afield.

These activities are complemented by dialogues and periodic meetings with the Permanent Missions of the PIF States to the UN in New York. Additionally, the PIFS participated in meetings of the Comprehensive Review of implementation of resolution 1540, New York, September-October 2009; and in a major conference of international, regional and subregional organizations on cooperation in promoting the implementation of resolution 1540, held in Vienna in December 2010.

### **3. Highlights**

The Pacific Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) is a main forum for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation policy discussions in the Pacific, usually taking place the day before the annual June meetings of the PIFS Forum on Regional Security Committee (FRSC), but this year was held a month earlier, after a regional exercise.

The WGCT Meeting provided substantive background information on the changing nature of the terrorist threat globally and threats in the region, and in-depth presentations on the international treaty instruments that could contribute to implementation of resolution 1540. The 1540 Committee expert shared practices of interest and experiences to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 in the region. In this regard, reference was made, *inter alia*, to the following:

- the workshop on chemicals and border control issues organised by the Oceania Customs Organisation and OPCW, 30 June-2 July 2010, in Nadi, Fiji.<sup>2</sup>
- a regional country's omnibus legislative approach in fulfilling OP2 of resolution 1540 that might be attractive to other countries with little capacity in drafting implementing legislation.
- accession to/implementation of the BWC and of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community model legislation on bio-security, as a contribution to implementation of resolution 1540.

The WGCT agreed to start a project to hire a follow-on adviser at PIFS headquarters in Suva, Fiji, to assist PIF States on implementing their counter-terrorism obligations, including implementation of the 16+ instruments regarding counter-terrorism, among which there are prohibitions and measures on WMD relevant to resolution 1540. The new post will follow-on from the UNODC/TPB post in the PIFS held by a New Zealander.

### **4. Bilateral Consultations**

The 1540 Committee expert spoke with each delegation to update points of contact and note new developments or practices taken by States on implementation. An extended bilateral consultation took place with one country regarding their interest in a country visit.

### **5. Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).

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<sup>2</sup> See <[www.ocossec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/all-news/2010/first-sub-regional-training-course-for-customs-officers-in-chemical-weapons-nadi-fiji.html](http://www.ocossec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/all-news/2010/first-sub-regional-training-course-for-customs-officers-in-chemical-weapons-nadi-fiji.html)>.