

Information Note¹

- Event:** **Inaugural meeting of the CTITF Working Group on Border Management**
- Organized by:** The World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Date and Venue:** 11- 12 January 2011, Brussels, Belgium
- Participants:** Besides the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the WCO, Co-Chairs of the working group, attended the meeting representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – observer to CTITF but actively engaged in the discussion, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts. The Monitoring Team of the “1267 Committee” and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) did not attend due visa problems but they contribute by sending written statements.

1. Objectives for participation

- increase cooperation among United Nations entities in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;
- contribute to the compendium providing inputs about requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) dealing with border management and exports, transit, transshipment controls on WMD related materials in order to raise awareness and assist member States in their national efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and the counter-terrorism instruments

2. Background

During the Retreat of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) organized in Greentree Estate, Manhasset, New York, from 7 to 9 July 2010, a ninth Working Group on Border Management and Control was proposed and agreed. The 1540 Committee experts participated in the preliminary discussion of its

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.

terms of reference. The Working Group was established to help Member States strengthen their border-management and border-control systems as set out in Pillar II, paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 to 16 and Pillar III, paragraphs 2, 4 and 11 to 13 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ([A/RES/60/288](#)).

3. Overview

The meeting started with the welcoming remarks by the three co-chairs and the introduction by each participant of the mandate of the respective organization and the contribution to the work of the Working Group.

The presentation of the 1540 expert underlined the specificity of resolution 1540 as a decision of the Security Council to consider proliferation by non-States actors of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery as a threat to international peace and to add illicit trafficking in WMD related materials as a new dimension of proliferation. Despite its focus on proliferation activities, the resolution refers also in its preamble to the threat of terrorism, includes terrorists in the concept of non-State actors and stresses the importance of establishing domestic and export controls over related materials to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, to have access to such materials. The expert also clarified that, as the 1540 Committee does not elaborate or endorse any best practices or standards, the contribution by the Group of Experts to the *compendium* will be limited in synopsis and extracts of relevant parts of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), and 1810 (2008) dealing with border and export, transit, transshipment re-export controls of dual use items.

4. Additional notes

The working group on border management aims at providing to member States, first, a *compendium* containing international guidance and standards elaborated by the participating entities in the framework of their respective mandates tentatively by the end of the current year. This compendium will serve member States in their efforts to implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the threat of terrorism in the context of cross-border activities. For more information see www.un.org/terrorism/pdfs/feature_article.pdf.

5. Additional comments

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