

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

- Event:** Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Meeting Addressing Pillar III
- Organizers:** Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the European Union and coordinated by the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), with additional financial support from Norway
- Date and Venue:** 21-22 July 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Participants:** *Central Asian states:* Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan  
*Other states:* Afghanistan, China, Iran, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkey, United States  
*Organizations:* Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), INTERPOL, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE, Action against Terrorism Unit - ATU), OSCE/ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (represented by the Deputy Secretary General and by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, RATS), UNHCR, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), CTED, UNDP, UNDPI, UNICRI, UNODC, 1267 Monitoring Team, 1540 Committee expert

### 1. Objectives for a 1540 Committee expert participation

- Gather Central Asian states, CTITF entities including 1540 Committee expert staff and other relevant partners in order to exchange views on the implementation in Central Asia of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and in particular its third pillar on preventing and combating terrorism, in the framework of a CTITF-led initiative aimed at assisting Central Asian states to devise a regional Plan of Action to implement the Strategy;
- Raise awareness of Central Asian states on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and provide participants with relevant technical inputs, as needed, and contribute to the discussions with a view to have relevant 1540-issues taken into account in the drafting of the regional action plan;
- Establish/expand working contacts with national officials from Central Asia States and with experts from States and international bodies involved in relevant activities in the region, including in the area of assistance.

### 2. Background

- The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted in September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, in the form of a resolution and an annexed Plan of Action (A/RES/60/288);

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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.

- The initiative under which the meeting was held is aimed at assisting Central Asian States to devise a regional Plan of Action to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was launched in September 2010 and is developed by CTITF, with funding from the European Union and the Government of Norway. The project is coordinated by the UNRCCA (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan);
- In the framework of this initiative, a first expert meeting was held in Bratislava, Slovakia (15-16 December 2010), which focused on implementing pillar I (*measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism*) and pillar IV (*measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism*) of the Strategy. A second expert meeting was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (29-30 March 2011), with a focus on pillar II (measures to prevent and combat terrorism “*in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attack, to their targets and to the desired impact of their attacks*”);
- The third pillar of the Strategy focuses on measures to build States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard;
- The regional Action Plan will be presented during a high-level meeting, expected by the end of 2011.

### 3. **Highlights and discussions**

Opening statements were delivered by representatives of Kazakhstan as host country, UNRCCA, CTITF, EU and Norway, participating Central Asian States, SCO and SCO/RATS, CICA, CIS, CARRIC, OSCE, CSTO, SCO, and INTERPOL.

Five working sessions explored the issue of capacity-building in all its aspects in accordance with Pillar III of the UN Strategy to Combat Terrorism, producing recommendations for the regional Action Plan.

Several aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) were presented and discussed during the working sessions. It was noted that resolution 1540 (2004) obligates States to develop and enforce appropriate legal and regulatory measures against the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, to and by non-State actors, and put in place measures to prevent the illicit trafficking of related materials. The 1540 Committee facilitates technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance, action plans or other information submitted to the 1540 Committee, acting as a « clearing house ». It posts summaries of the offers and of the requests - with the consent of States - on its website, and distributes the requests for assistance directly to States and international organizations identified as providers of assistance. States may submit requests for assistance to the 1540 Committee by using a template designed to this effect (<http://www.un.org/sc/1540/assistancetemplate.shtml>) or by sending a written request through their country’s UN Mission to forward to the Committee. In October 2010, the 1540 Committee adopted revised assistance procedures to rationalize, improve and accelerate response to assistance requests and facilitate match-making; under the new procedures, requests for assistance are distributed to potential assistance providers within one week after the request was received by the Committee, and the 1540 Committee experts conduct informal match-making on advice of the requesting State. The 1540 Committee can conduct visits to States, at their invitation, to discuss any aspect of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including assistance issues. In support of the 1540 Committee’s outreach efforts, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has been organizing regional and sub-regional workshops to promote and assist the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It was also noted that a UNODA-organized workshop for Central Asia states would be held, in cooperation with the OSCE, in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 27-29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 with a focus on border and export controls to prevent WMD proliferation to non-state actors.

#### **4. Additional comments**

Information on the project on “Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia” is available on the CTITF website at: [http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf/proj\\_centralasia.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf/proj_centralasia.shtml)

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