

Information Note¹

- Event:** Retreat of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)
- Organizers:** United Nations Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) (www.un.org/terrorism/cttaskforce)
- Venue and Date:** Greentree Estate, Manhasset, New York, 7-9 July 2010
- Participants:** Representatives from 29 of 30 entities and observers in the CTITF; this included two 1540 Committee experts.

1. Objectives

- Interact with other participants on the opportunities and challenges to cooperate with entities within the UN system on issues concerning counter-terrorism, in particular with those whose mandates include activities complementary to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Seek further information on the development of CTITF's initiative on Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT), currently focusing on Nigeria and Burkina Faso.
- Acquire better understanding of the proposed new CTITF Working Group on Border Management and Control, an area related to OP3 of resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The 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 30 entities and observers, and convenes bi-annual ‘retreat’ meetings such as this which provide entities an opportunity to share information on respective mandates and, as relevant, activities that can contribute to States’ implementation of measures to counter terrorism. In consolidating such efforts, Member States adopted a UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, (A/RES/60/288) on 8 September 2006, which underpins a plan of action that States can implement through ‘four pillars’. Pillars II (measures to prevent and combat terrorism) and III (measures to build States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN system in this regard) include measures similar to those required by resolution 1540 (2004), and thus also contributes to the basis for the participation of the 1540 Committee experts in the CTITF.

3. Highlights

- A. The Chair of the CTITF and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) reported on CTITF activities, since the February 2010 and October 2009 retreats, which included:
- the process of its institutionalization since 2009 when the Secretary-General established a CTITF Office under Department of Political Affairs for secretariat support;

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– expanded engagement with key entities to deal with Pillars I (measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism) and IV (measures to respect human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism) of the Global CT Strategy.

B. CTITF has eight working groups on various themes of interest to Member States that guide its work, with two existing groups of interest to resolution 1540 (2004):

- *Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Attacks* – reported on the EU-funded workshop “International Response and Mitigation of a Terrorist Attack Using Nuclear and Radiological Weapons or Materials”, 29-31 March 2010, in Vienna, Austria.
- *Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism* – reported on the development of an Action Plan following from the group’s October 2009 report on “Tackling the Financing of Terrorism” (www.un.org/terrorism/pdfs/CTITF_financing_ENG_final.pdf).

A ninth *Working Group on Border Management and Control* was proposed and agreed at the retreat, where preliminary discussion of its terms of reference also took place. This WG aims to provide guidance to 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.

C. The CTITF team reported that its *Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)* initiative launched a refined version of a web-based Information System – the ADAM-based tool (www.paris-pact.net) for enhanced information sharing to facilitate identification of areas of complementarity, avoidance of duplication of efforts, and delivery of assistance under the UN Global CT Strategy, keeping in mind the mandates of CTITF entities. The I-ACT Information System helps to map technical assistance activities in partner countries and identify additional assistance needs. Burkina Faso and Nigeria are current partnering Member States that formally requested to be considered for such assistance. I-ACT drafted its first mapping report for Nigeria for CTITF entities’ respective inputs and comments. After a national action plan is developed, further consultations with CTITF entities will take place to catalyze assistance delivery capacity from within and outside the UN system as appropriate. A 1540 Committee expert has been designated as a focal point for information regarding I-ACT developments.

D. To increase public awareness of the UN Global CT Strategy and in preparation for the General Assembly Review of the Strategy (8 September 2010), CTITF is reviewing its communication strategy, including updating its website, producing a press kit, and on the occasion of the Review, holding side events on 7 and 9 September with the International Peace Institute (IPI).

E. The CTITF retreat provided an opportunity for the 1540 Committee experts to meet other entities within the UN system, as encouraged by the 1540 Committee Working Group on Cooperation, to facilitate States’ implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through complementary efforts, including on development and other national priorities as recommended in the Final Document (paragraph 20) of the 2009 Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Additional comments**

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