

Information Note¹

- Event:** Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – 2nd Expert Meeting Addressing Pillar II
- 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:** 29-30 March 2011, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Participants:** *Central Asian states:* Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
Other states: Afghanistan, China, Germany, Iran, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, United States
Organizations: Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), INTERPOL, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE, Action against Terrorism Unit - ATU), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (represented by the Deputy Secretary General and by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, RATS), UNHCR, 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 in Central Asia, and in particular its second pillar on preventing and combating terrorism, in the framework of a CTITF-led initiative aimed at assist Central Asian states to devise a regional Plan of Action to implement the Strategy;
- Contribute to raise awareness of Central Asian states on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and provide participants with relevant technical inputs, as needed;
- Expand the network of expert level contacts in the region, and in international bodies involved in projects with Central Asian states.

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);
- 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);

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.

- 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;
- Through the second pillar of the annexed Plan of Action, UN Member States resolved to undertake a broad range of measures to prevent and combat terrorism “*in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attacks, to their targets and to the desired impact of their attacks*”;
- The regional Action Plan will be presented during a high-level meeting, expected by the end of 2011.

3. **Highlights and discussions**

The workshop programme, in addition to opening and closing remarks, comprised five working sessions on different issues related to the 2nd pillar of the Strategy.

The focus of the working session on *enhancing legal and international instruments* was mainly on the counter-terrorism conventions, their implementation and enforcement. Resolution 1540 (2004) was therefore not central in the discussion though prohibitions and physical protection measures of several of these conventions are complementary to requirements of resolution 1540. The 1540 Committee expert recalled the obligations imposed upon all States by resolution 1540 (2004), highlighting its non-proliferation focus which contributes to counter-terrorism efforts by preventing proliferation to non-State actors. The 1540 Committee expert described the clearinghouse role of the Committee, which facilitates match-making between requests and offers of assistance, and mentioned the possibility of country visits at the request of States. The 1540 Committee expert shared data on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Central Asia, using information from the 1540 Committee Matrices in an aggregated manner so not to single out specific countries.

The working session on *responding to attacks using weapons of mass destruction and denying illicit trafficking*, moderated by the 1540 Committee expert, was introduced with a set of questions taking into account the meeting’s focus on the implementation of the UN Global Strategy – while echoing provisions of resolution 1540 (2004):

- ➔ At the national level, are there effective laws which prohibit non-state actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes?
- ➔ At the national level, what are the measures in place to account for and secure WMD-related materials? Are there measures of physical protection of WMD-related materials? What is in place in terms of border and law enforcement measures to combat illicit trafficking / smuggling of nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological materials?
- ➔ What is in place in terms of export control with a focus on WMD-related materials?
- ➔ On all these issues (national legal framework – measures to account for and physically protect WMD-related materials – border and law enforcement measures – export control measures), is there a need for assistance? How can the different partners around the table contribute to efforts of Central Asian States in this regard?

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

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