

Joint Statement on the cooperation between the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

11 May 2010

On behalf of the Chairmen of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) dealing with terrorism, I would like to give an update on the continued cooperation among the Committees and their expert groups.

During the last six months the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee (1267 Committee), the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee and their respective expert groups have increased cooperation as requested by the Security Council in recent resolutions pertaining to the three Committees, notably in resolutions 1805 (2008), 1810 (2008) and 1904 (2009).

The three Committees attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation among their expert groups, namely the Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1540 Committee Experts. The Committees welcome the continuing efforts of the expert groups to develop common strategies on areas of common concern, to organize joint workshops, to coordinate their participation in conferences and joint country visits, to exchange information on their activities, and to hold regular meetings among staff and heads of offices. The Committees encourage their expert groups to further enhance their exchange of information and coordination with regard to country visits, capacity building, assistance requests and delivery of technical assistance activities. In this context, I would also like to recall that the cooperation and coordination would be facilitated by the co-location of the experts in the framework of the Capital Master Plan, as requested by the Security Council in resolution 1904 (2009).

The three expert groups continued to implement the common strategy on dealing with non- or late-reporting States through exchange of information and joint visits, when appropriate, and in assisting Member States in submitting their responses to the three Committees on their implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Under that strategy, the three expert groups have separately or jointly followed up with workshops organized by them and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Since the last briefing, the three expert groups have invited each other when organizing workshops that may be relevant to the mandates of the other Committees and their expert groups. These workshops provide an excellent opportunity for the three expert groups to assist in the understanding by Member States of the differing but complimentary roles and mandates of the three Committees, and they also enable the relevant expert groups to benefit from the network and contacts of the expert group that organized the workshop. For this reason, the three expert groups also regularly exchange information on relevant contacts and focal points. This allows for a more systematic follow up. The exchange of contacts is an important aspect of information-sharing, especially in regard to the focal points officially designated by States for the domestic implementation of the respective resolutions. CTED has made available its list of national counter-terrorism focal points to the other two expert groups. Furthermore, CTED and the 1267 Monitoring Team have made a reciprocal arrangement for access to their electronic database and an extension arrangement to the 1540 expert group is underway. The Monitoring Team has already provided access to its database to the 1540 experts. On the other hand, the 1540 legislative database and the information from matrices are already accessible through the official

website. The 1540 experts were recently mandated by the 1540 committee to share with CTED and the MT their travel plans and trip reports. This improved exchange of information will further deepen mutual cooperation among the three expert groups. Furthermore, CTED is now sharing the Monthly Reports of its Executive Director with the other two expert groups.

In addition to the workshops, the three expert groups continued exploring the use of common video conferences with Member States. The Committees continue to believe that these workshops and interactive discussions with officials from capitals are very important tools to enhance the dialogue with Member States, to help improve the understanding of the distinct though connected mandates of the three Committees, and to assist Member States in the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

With respect to new themes for a common strategy among the three groups, a common paper was prepared by the three expert groups, focusing on the enhancement of cooperation with selected intergovernmental organizations. The paper, which identified four organizations for a common list, was presented to the three committees. Consultations are ongoing to finalize the modalities of a common approach towards relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations. In the meanwhile, the three expert groups have continued their cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), which is one of the four organizations mentioned in the common paper. The three expert groups had their third meeting with the PIF Missions to the UN in New York, in January 2010, at the Mission of Australia and hosted by New Zealand, as part of the PIF Missions' initiative to hold regular meetings on updates of the work of the three Security Council Committees and implementation of respective Security Council resolutions in the Pacific region. Such meetings have continued to deepen the mutual understanding and cooperation between the PIF Missions and the experts of the three Committees.

The expert groups continue to coordinate their visits to Member States, explore whether these could be conducted jointly, and coordinate their participation at relevant conferences. When an expert group does not participate in a visit, they exchange information on the Member State that is to be visited. In addition, the three expert groups also share their reports on their visits, whenever possible. Since the last joint briefing, Monitoring Team members have participated in two CTC visits, which make a total of seventeen joint trips.

The three expert groups also continue to contribute to and coordinate their work within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The expert groups contribute to the work of several CTITF Working Groups, and the Monitoring Team and CTED have assumed leading functions. In this regard, a joint meeting was held between the three expert groups and the CTITF on 7 April, to discuss common issues, review current joint work and to identify other areas which could be used to utilise their respective areas of expertise and capacity within the UN system as partners in a joint effort to assist Member States to better implement the respective resolutions pertaining to their work. It was also agreed that the CTITF could provide a further link to relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations and was a natural partner in events that were also clearly linked to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was further agreed to have periodic joint meetings to review their work on common issues.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, there are regular meetings of the expert groups in New York. Moreover, CTC invites the Monitoring Team, the 1540 Committee Experts, CTITF and the relevant UN offices on a regular basis to its thematic briefings in the framework of its official meetings. In the last six months, these thematic discussions have been held in the fields of

border control and security, implementation and assessment of resolution 1624 (2005), maritime security/terrorist acts committed at sea, implementation of the extradition requirements and law enforcement. Recently, the Coordinator of the 1540 Working Group on Cooperation with International Organizations, the CTC and the 1267 Committee also invited the Monitoring Team, the CTED experts and CTITF to attend a briefing by the IAEA during the informal consultations of this Working Group.

On the occasion of previous briefings, an updated comparative table was issued to highlight the main aspects of the respective mandates and areas of competence of the three Committees and of their expert groups. That table has served as a useful tool for Member States, as it has helped them better to understand the specificities and complementarities of our work. The comparative table has been further updated and posted on our respective websites and will be distributed today.

Terrorism and WMD proliferation to non-state actors continue to be a threat to international peace and security. Cooperation is a crucial element in the efforts to counter the threat of terrorism, including that from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for terrorist purposes. The three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and their respective expert groups are committed to continue to cooperate and to coordinate their work, within their respective mandates, in order to contribute to an effective and efficient approach within the overall UN framework, and within the broader efforts of the international community. In this respect, the Committees look forward to receiving further guidance from the Council on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.