

**Joint Briefing by the Security Council Committees
Established pursuant to
Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004)**

12 November 2008

**Briefing by Ambassador Jorge Urbina,
Chairman of the Committee
established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540**

1. This briefing covers the six month-period since the last joint briefing to the Security Council held on 6 May 2008. It focuses on the activities related to the submission of and follow-up to the 1540 Committee's report to the Security Council in July 2008. This report summarizes the progress made during the second biennium on the implementation of the provisions of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006).

Programme of Work

2. In accordance with resolution 1810, the 1540 Committee agreed to establish an open-ended working group to develop its next annual Programme of Work, due by the end of January 2009. A Vice Chair of the Committee is leading this effort.

Implementation of Resolution 1540

3. In July 2008, as Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I presented to the Security Council the second report on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This report (document S/2008/493) was submitted in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1673 (2006) and 1810 (2008). This second report, building on the first one submitted in April 2006, identified several specific measures taken by Member States to implement resolution 1540. These measures cover a range: from developing new institutional means and adopting new legislation and enforcement measures, to creating and implementing programmes to assist States in fulfilling their obligations under resolution 1540.

4. Initial reports submitted by a number of countries and new information received from previously reporting States, together with information gathered from official sources, had enabled the Committee to present a more complete picture of measures already in place or planned in the near future. As of 5 November 2008, 159 States have submitted first reports, with 102 among them having provided additional information. Since the 6 May 2008 briefing to the Security Council, six States had submitted first reports, and five submitted additional information.

5. The data and examination presented in the July 2008 Report demonstrated qualitative progress in implementation of resolution 1540 though more work is needed. Resolution 1810 encourages the 1540 Committee in its outreach activities to work more closely with global and regional intergovernmental organizations and arrangements, within and outside the United Nations system, in fostering the sharing of experience, creating forums for discussion and developing innovative mechanisms to achieve implementation.

6. The Committee takes this opportunity to thank all States that have responded promptly to the Committee's appeals for information and to encourage the States that have not yet reported, to do so as soon as possible.

Outreach activities

7. The Committee has continued to rely on outreach activities to encourage and promote full implementation of resolution 1540. Since early May 2008, the Chairman, members of the Committee, and the experts that assist it, participated in fourteen outreach conferences, seminars and workshops. The purpose of such participation ranged from the raising awareness about the requirements for action by States to achieve full implementation of the resolution, and the encouragement of the submission of reports on the status of implementation efforts by States, to the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. The Committee and its experts continued to engage in dialogues with participating officials from governments and organizations particularly interested in the work of the Committee.

8. The Committee has engaged in several types of outreach activities since May 2008:
- a) *Common-strategy workshops:* In order to encourage States that were not responding to the calls from the three Committees to submit reports or responses, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Terrorism Prevention Branch had sponsored a third workshop on the preparation of responses. Designed for Northern and Eastern African States, this workshop is currently taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, 11-13 November 2008. The common strategy events are organized jointly with the 1540 Committee's Experts, the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1267 Committee's Monitoring Team.

 - b) *Other outreach events:* Since May, the Committee members and its experts participated in meetings on relevant subjects ranging from the legal aspects of international instruments for countering terrorist acts in the nuclear, chemical or biological areas, to more specific topics such as proliferation financing, export controls, and illicit trafficking in nuclear materials. Such events included a conference on export controls; events organised by the Organization of American States (in Argentina and Panama); and UNODC-sponsored workshops jointly with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Fiji, and another in Austria designed for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Also during this period, other events that offered opportunities to discuss and promote resolution 1540 were organized by North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to States Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC); and by academic and policy think tanks of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, the United States Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, and Rome's Istituto Affari Internazionali.

c) *1540-specific workshops organised by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):* The 1540 Committee welcomes the launch of a new series of regional workshops through 2009 organised by the UNODA on implementation of resolution 1540, focusing on border and export controls, the first of which is being prepared to take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 24-28 November. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee have indicated their interest to participate in these.

9. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the UNODC, the UNODA as well as the Government of Norway and the European Union for their ongoing support in the above mentioned activities.

Assistance

10. Resolution 1810 enhanced the Committee's clearing house function involving the gathering of information by adding the role of matching, as appropriate, assistance requests with the potential offers of assistance. Further to developing an assistance template to facilitate requests, the Committee is currently processing assistance requests from four States and one from a sub-regional inter-governmental organization. Unlike the many previous general requests, these requests benefited from the direct use of, or reference to, the template to facilitate the 1540 Committee's newly enhanced role.

Cooperation with UN subsidiary bodies and inter-governmental organisations

11. Since the May 2008 Joint Briefing to the Security Council, the 1540 Committee has continued to maintain close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee. Moreover, the expert groups assisting the three Committees have intensified their collaboration in completing the common strategy for improving responses from African States and by developing a common strategy to cooperate with key international, regional and sub-regional organizations and United Nations agencies and entities. The three expert groups have also conducted small-group discussions on issues of border, export and customs

controls in various regions in preparation of the forthcoming 1540 workshops organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

12. Efforts to develop closer cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations and arrangements are continuing. To this end:

a) the Head of the UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch briefed the 1540 Committee on 23 August 2008, with follow-up discussions and exchange of communications with the experts to continue cooperation in the areas of:

i) the common strategy approach;

ii) information sharing within the respective mandates of the 1540 Committee and UNODC/TPB including on the UNODC/TPB experience in model legislative provisions against terrorism; and

iii) mutual participation by the 1540 Committee and UNODC/TPB in activities of common interest.

b) the Chairman of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts along with the Head of the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) briefed the 1540 Committee on 23 October 2008, on the outcome of the August BWC Meeting (in preparation of the December BWC Meeting of States Parties) and on the role of the Geneva-based ISU. Future 1540 Committee cooperation with the ISU was discussed to include participation in each other's events and coordination on assistance requests.

14. In conclusion, we note that implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 is a long-term process, requiring continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels on capacity building and assistance. We look forward to the next phase of the work of the Committee as it develops a

new Programme of Work and undertakes to further assist States in full implementation of resolution 1540.

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