

**Talking Points for the Joint Briefing by the
Security Council Committees established pursuant to
Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) to the Security Council**

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the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to UN SC resolution 1540

(Security Council, 22nd May 2007)

This is a statement to brief the Security Council on the progress made by the 1540 Committee since the last joint briefing to the Security Council on 28 September 2006 and to outline some of its forthcoming activities in 2007 in promoting full implementation of the provisions resolution 1540.

New Programme of work

On 3 October 2006, the 1540 Committee adopted its fifth programme of work for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007. It covers all aspects of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006) and reflects the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee to the Security Council of 25 April 2006 (S/2006/257). During the past eight months, the Committee has focused its activities in the following two main areas of the programme of work:

- (a) Increasing its knowledge by examination of the information on the status of implementation of resolution 1540, including through encouraging the submission of national reports and additional information and through further examination of information on the status of implementation of all aspects of the resolution;
- (b) Outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation to promote implementation of all aspects of the resolution, including through the following activities: tailored dialogue with States and regions about full implementation; sharing of national experiences; facilitating technical assistance; and cooperation with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

Reporting on implementation of Resolution 1540

The Committee considers the submission of national reports among its top priorities. Since the last briefing in September 2006, four States, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Nicaragua, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, have submitted their first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540, bringing the total number of reporting States to 136. Fifty-five States, mostly in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region, are yet to submit their first reports. In order to assist those States in the preparation of their first reports, the Committee sent to them in October/November 2006, a legislative database and a partially completed draft matrix prepared by the Committee's experts for each State to serve as a starting point. The draft matrices contain relevant information obtained from official sources, especially from the websites of governments and relevant international organizations. The Committee urges the States that have not yet reported to do so as soon as possible.

Of the 136 reporting States, 85 States have so far provided additional information and the remaining States are also encouraged to update their first reports. The new information has been used to revise the first matrices, will be returned to each States to review for any missing information and use as a tool to identify potential gaps that may require further measures to achieve fuller implementation of resolution 1540.

Outreach Activities

On the basis of an informal paper submitted by the Chairman, the 1540 Committee has adopted a detailed approach on priorities in organizing outreach activities to promote implementation of resolution 1540 through dialogue and cooperation among Member States and facilitate bilateral and multilateral assistance when required. The Committee is engaged in two kinds of outreach activities:

- (a) those organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (former Department for disarmament Affairs – DDA); and
- (b) those organized by governments and other entities where representatives of the Committee or the Expert Group make presentations and conduct informal dialogue.

Since the last joint briefing to the Security Council two outreach regional seminars were organized by the United Nations on the implementation of resolution 1540.

ODA-sponsored seminars and workshops

(1) *Ghana seminar*

The Committee's first seminar on the implementation of the resolution in Africa was held in Accra, Ghana, on 9-10 November 2006. It was organized by UN DDA and co-sponsored by the European Union and the Government of Norway. The seminar was designed as the first part of an outreach activity for the 35 African States that have not yet submitted a first report to the Committee. Fourteen of those non-reporting States were among the 21 African States represented at the meeting. The seminar also included participants and panelists from some reporting African States, from some donor countries and from the relevant international organizations. Two African sub-regional organizations were also represented at the seminar.

Participants at the seminar discussed reporting requirements, offers of technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources and the clearing house function with respect to technical assistance of the 1540 Committee.

Future activities in the region may include another outreach seminar for the remaining non-reporting States in Africa and sub-regional workshops and training programmers geared to implementation measures.

(2) *Peru Seminar*

The seminar in Peru was also organized by UN DDA in Lima on 27-28 November 2006 as a follow-up to the Buenos Aires regional seminar held in September 2005. It was co-sponsored by the European Union and the Government of Spain. The purpose of the seminar was not only to intensify awareness of the obligations derived from resolutions

1540 and 1673 but also to discuss ways and means to achieve full implementation of these resolutions and to explore the possibilities for channeling assistance.

Participants from 26 Latin American and Caribbean States attended the seminar as well as representatives of the OAS, CARICOM and the Andean Community. The seminar also included participants and panelists from seven Member States outside the region and from the relevant international organizations.

The seminar recommended that further activities should focus on thematic workshops and training activities at the sub-regional level. According, three such workshops are being planned:

- (a) a reporting workshop for the Caribbean States, to be hosted by Jamaica in Kingston on 29-30 May 2007;
- (b) an implementation workshop for Latin American States, hosted by Argentina to be held in Buenos Aires possibly late July 2007;
- (c) a sub-regional implementation workshop for the MERCOSUR members, hosted by Brazil to be held in the second half of 2007.

In both the Ghana and Peru seminars the participants benefited from presentations made by representatives of the European Union, the IAEA, the OPCW and the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. A useful contribution was also made by the World Customs Organization at the Ghana seminar.

Participation in other workshops

Representatives of the Committee participated in at least eleven activities organized by governments or other entities since the last report to the Council, which appear in an Annex to this report. These included activities organized by the OPCW, the OSCE, the OAS, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the governments of Norway, the Republic of Korea, Romania, and the United States, and others. Some of the results of these activities include recommendations by the OSCE and the ARF that their members/participants develop road-maps to implement the resolution, more reports and additional information, developing points of contact at the national and international levels, and exploration of practices for addressing emerging issues, such as WMD brokering and financing.

Assistance

The importance of organizing technical and other assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540 was emphasized in all the outreach activities. For the Committee to act effectively as a clearing house on assistance it is essential that States indicate specific areas to facilitate matching requests with offers of assistance. In view of the crucial role of assistance for many countries to facilitate full implementation of resolution 1540, the Committee held a thematic discussion on 14 May 2007.

Cooperation

Cooperation with relevant UNSC Committees

The Committee and its experts have continued to maintain close relations with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1267 Committee. The three teams of

experts are focusing on applying their “Joint Paper on Common Strategy for Non-Reporting/Late Reporting States” to accelerate the pace of reporting to their respective committees. Concrete steps are now being taken by the three expert groups, in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to organize sub-regional workshops for Non-Reporting/Late-Reporting States in Africa, the Caribbean region and the Pacific Island States. Other joint efforts and reciprocal participation in outreach activities will continue to develop.

Cooperation with international organizations and arrangements in the implementation of Resolution 1540

The importance of cooperation with relevant organizations was underscored by resolution 1673 and was also recently given special emphasis when the Security Council devoted an open session on 23 February, at which States, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the World Customs Organization explored modalities for practical cooperation. The Council reiterated its determination to enhance its cooperation with international organizations and to develop preferred mechanisms for cooperation with them on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the variation in each organization’s capacity and mandate, including in assisting States in implementing resolutions 1540 and 1673. In the future we want to expand this cooperation and use the comparative advantages, potential and expertise of the international organizations in advancing the process of implementation of resolutions 1540 and 1673. Accordingly, we have right now a mission of our experts visiting the headquarters of the IAEA and the OPCW to discuss practical arrangements to strengthen our cooperation. I will myself join them in a few days for high-level discussions at the OPCW.

Besides acknowledging with appreciation the work of organizations with expertise in non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, one of the most important results achieved at the Open Debate, was the affirmation of the Security Council’s determination to promote increased multilateral cooperation – as an important way to boost worldwide implementation of its three-year-old resolution 1540 adopted in 2004. As it is clearly confirmed in the outcome of the Open Debate, in the Presidential Statement, which reminds *inter alia* that “*The Security Council is mindful of the need to further explore with international, regional and sub regional organizations experience- sharing and lessons learned in areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), and the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of the resolution*”.

The Committee will continue to interact and cooperate with other relevant international organizations and arrangements and with regional and sub-regional organizations in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540.

On 18 October 2006, the 1540 Committee was briefed by three representatives of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG Troika) on the work of the NSG of particular relevance to work of the Committee. A similar briefing was given in 2005.

On 14 March 2007, the committee was also briefed by three representatives of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR Troika) on the role and activities of the regime as they relates to the work of the Committee.

Next steps for the Committee

For the next six months, the Committee and its experts plan to intensify their efforts to increase the number of States reporting, and the rate of such reporting – through more dialogue with member States and tailor made outreach activities at the sub-regional level, some of them in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Committee is currently assessing its function for facilitating bilateral and multilateral assistance for the implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540.

In accordance with its current programme of work, the Committee will explore with other organizations and with member States experience sharing and lessons learned to facilitate implementation. It will continue thematic discussions on implementing different aspects of the programme of work. The Committee's website and legislative database will be regularly updated and further developed to assist member States with the relevant information. Finally, the Committee will encourage States to provide additional information on national implementation as an ongoing process.