

**Joint Briefing by the Security Council Committees established pursuant to
Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004)
26 May 2008**

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

1. As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I am pleased to brief the Security Council on the main activities of the Committee covering the six-month period since the last joint briefing held on 12 November 2008. The main focus is on the adoption of the Committee's annual Programme of Work and on outreach activities, assistance and cooperation with relevant organizations.

Programme of Work

2. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1810 (2008), the Committee completed preparation of its Programme of Work covering the period from 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010. The Programme, which was circulated as a Security Council document (S/2009/124, 4 March 2009), calls for intensification of existing activities and developing certain new activities. The Programme seeks to:

(a) increase the Committee's knowledge of the status of implementation by encouraging non-reporting States to submit a first report and other States to provide additional information reflecting progress towards full implementation of resolution 1540;

(b) continue the Committee's dialogue with States about such progress and to organize and participate in outreach events at the regional, sub-regional and, as appropriate, national levels;

(c) enhance the Committee's cooperation with other international bodies, including the Security Council's Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 and 1373; and

(d) engage actively with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as with States, for the purpose of sharing experiences and lessons learned.

3. Moreover, the Programme seeks to strengthen the Committee's role of facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540, by developing further its clearing house function for matching offers and requests for assistance; and by encouraging and taking advantage of voluntary financial contributions to assist States in addressing their needs.

4. A major focus of the Committee's work during 2009 will be to organize a Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540. The Review will assess the evolution of risks and threats in the areas covered by the resolution, address specific critical issues that have not yet been addressed and identify new approaches for the implementation of the resolution. The modalities for the Review, to be completed by end 2009 but no later than 31 January 2010, were circulated as a Security Council document (S/2009/170, 1 April 2009).

5. In order to implement its 2009 Programme more efficiently, the Committee has established four working groups open to all its members:

- national implementation and monitoring, including the Comprehensive Review;
- assistance;
- cooperation with international organizations and bodies, including the CTC and the 1267 Committee; and,
- transparency and outreach.

Outreach activities

6. Outreach activities have been intensified to encourage and promote full implementation of resolution 1540. Since the last joint briefing in November 2008, twenty-five conferences and workshops were attended by the Chairman or members of the Committee and by the experts assisting the Committee. The Committee's outreach

was worldwide, covering meetings in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the United States. The purpose of such participation ranged from raising awareness, to the encouragement of submitting national reports on the status of implementation; from the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in seeking solutions, to explaining technical issues in the resolution and encouraging the use of methods and tools to facilitate the preparation of implementation plans or assistance requests.

7. Since November 2008 the Committee has continued to engage in several types of outreach activities, summarized as follows:

(a) *1540-specific regional workshops organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)*: Three such regional workshops were organized on the implementation of resolution 1540, with a focus on capacity-building of Member States with respect to border and export controls. The first was organized for the MERCOSUR countries in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 24-28 November 2008. The second workshop, held in Doha, Qatar, from 8-12 March 2009, was organized for the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the neighbouring area. The third workshop, held in Port-Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April – 1 May 2009, was organized for UN Member States in the Pacific Islands region. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the host countries, and to the sponsors of those events: the European Union and the Government of Norway who were joined by the United States in the case of the Brazil and Qatar workshops, and the United Kingdom in the case of the Qatar workshop, and by New Zealand for the workshop in Vanuatu.

(b) *Regional workshops organized in collaboration with other UN bodies*: In addition to the “common strategy” workshops for non-reporting and late reporting African States, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB), the UNODC/TPB co-organized workshops on the implementation of the international instruments dealing with counter-terrorism with other regional bodies, such as the League of Arab States in Cairo

(November 2008), the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Dominican Republic (February 2009), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Bucharest (March 2009). The 1540 Committee expresses appreciation to the UNODC and the regional bodies and host governments for their valuable role in organizing these workshops.

(c) *Meetings organized by other organizations:* The conferences and workshops covered subjects ranging from the broad issue of implementation of the international instruments on non-proliferation and counter-terrorism, to a direct focus on the implementation of resolution 1540; from the various non-proliferation measures in the nuclear, chemical or biological area, to a sharper focus on specific issues such as proliferation financing, illicit trafficking and maritime security. Such events included: the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW's) international and regional workshops on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); an EU-sponsored meeting on the CWC and non-proliferation; an OSCE meeting on security cooperation, including non-proliferation initiatives; an IAEA symposium on nuclear security; a conference of the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Center of Excellence; OAS meetings on non-proliferation, resolution 1540 and counter-terrorism; and meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

(d) *Country-specific events:* The 1540 Committee has participated in country-specific workshops of particular relevance to the implementation of resolution 1540. In February 2009, a 1540 Committee expert participated at a workshop in Tashkent devoted to the implementation of resolution 1540 in Uzbekistan. We appreciate the initiative taken by the Government of Uzbekistan and the Center for Non-Proliferation Studies of Monterey Institute of International Studies in organizing this event, which facilitated intensive dialogue with officials from different ministries. It should be noted that a similar dialogue with officials from the Dominican Republic was made possible in tandem with a UNODC-sponsored meeting of Caribbean countries held there in February 2009.

Assistance

8. As encouraged in resolution 1810, the Committee is intensifying efforts to develop its clearing house function for channeling assistance to Member States by matching, as appropriate, assistance requests with forthcoming offers of assistance. The number of specific assistance requests submitted in the Committee's recently distributed assistance template has now reached six, comprising five from individual Member States and one submitted by the sub-regional organization CARICOM on behalf of its region. Those submissions included requests for assistance on drafting legislation, workshops on border and export controls, and a regional 1540 coordinator. They have been referred to Member States and organizations that may be in a position to provide the requested assistance, with some offers already having been made.

Cooperation with other bodies and organizations

9. Our joint statement as Chairmen of the CTC, the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Committee and the 1540 Committee provides more information on the progress that our Committees have made in strengthening our cooperation during the past six months. We look forward to further joint efforts in engaging intergovernmental organizations to assist in promoting the objectives of the three Committees.

10. Towards that end, during my visits to Washington, D.C. and Vienna last December and again this month, as the 1540 Committee Chairman, I was able to meet senior staff of the OAS, OSCE and the IAEA to discuss new steps to upgrade the Committee's relations with these organizations. I intend to carry out similar consultations with other organizations, for example, the World Customs Organization, in the near future, in order to strengthen the cooperation between them and the Committee to enhance its role in facilitating States' implementation of resolution 1540. The improved cooperation between international organizations, States and the Committee are also among the major objectives of the Comprehensive Review taking place during the rest of this year.

Thank you.