

Joint Briefing by the Security Council Committees established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2001)

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Briefing by Ambassador Claude Heller, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

I am very pleased as Chairman of the 1540 Committee to summarize the main developments in the work of the Committee during the past six months since the last joint briefing on 13 November 2009. I would like to update the Security Council on the outcome of the recent Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 and highlight the main activities regarding outreach and awareness building, as well as assistance and cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations. I have already commented on the growing cooperation between the 1540 Committee and United Nations bodies, especially the 1267 and 1373 Committees and the CTITF.

Comprehensive Review and new programme of work

The Comprehensive Review was launched in response to a decision of the Security Council in resolution 1810 (2008) as an open three-day meeting of the 1540 Committee, from 30 September to 2 October 2009. My predecessor, Ambassador Jorge Urbina reported on the proceedings of the Review involving statements and interactive discussions on specific issues by 41 States and 21 intergovernmental organizations and other entities. My purpose is now to highlight the outcome of the Review which was presented to the Security Council on 29 January 2010 in the form of a Final Document containing key findings and recommendations (S/2010/52). The main points covered five major areas where progress can be made:

- (a) the Committee's capacity to gather information on the status of implementation;
- (b) efficiency and effectiveness of its working practices;
- (c) means for facilitating assistance;
- (d) cooperation with international, regional and multilateral institutions; and,
- (e) outreach.

Without going into the specific recommendations, I am pleased to mention that the Review confirmed that the adoption of resolution 1540, has prompted significant steps across the globe to prevent non-State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and has also facilitated the gathering of comprehensive data of measures taken by States in this regard. A very high number of States have reported on the measures taken in accordance with said resolution. Since 2006, Member States have made demonstrable and significant progress in addressing the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Nearly 160 Member States have reported on their capabilities and gaps in stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and

the number of States reporting to have implemented legislative measures to penalize the involvement of non-State actors in prohibited weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities has grown considerably since the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004).

The Review also confirmed that, due to the wide range of obligations derived from resolution 1540, some States still have some lacunae in addressing all the requirements through legislation, including the adoption of preventive measures and penalties for violations.

In addition, the comprehensive review acknowledged the significant number of measures that States have taken to implement resolution 1540 obligations, but identified some areas in which States have adopted fewer measures, such as biological weapons, means of delivery, national control lists, and access to related materials and financing of prohibited or illicit proliferation activities.

The Review also identified some actions that could be carried out by the Committee in order to advance in the implementation of resolution 1540.

Likewise, it was identified that the cooperative and transparent approach of the 1540 Committee has been a key factor in increasing the level of cooperation with all States.

The States and many international actors welcomed the openness of the comprehensive review process and urged the 1540 Committee to continue this approach and to increase its already useful efforts towards achieving transparency and inclusiveness.

The Committee's programme of work covering the period from 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011 takes forward the recommendations of the Comprehensive Review not only by building on the programme of the past year but also by improving its method of work, for example: by facilitating the contribution of experts from capitals in the Committee's work; by encouraging further contribution by non-permanent members of the Council leaving the Committee; and by making its matrix and assistance template as more user friendly tools.

Recent activities

In the wake of the Comprehensive Review, the former Chairman of the Committee visited several headquarters of intergovernmental organizations – the WCO in Brussels, the OPCW at The Hague, and the IAEA and the OSCE in Vienna, and followed up in December 2010 with correspondence to record the understandings reached on practical ways to strengthen cooperation with the Committee.

In order to expand the scope of cooperation in specific areas such as experience sharing and coordination of assistance requests and channeling of legislative advice, the Committee has started sending expert missions to the secretariats of those organizations. Such a mission was conducted fruitfully by two of our experts at the OPCW headquarters

in The Hague, from 8-10 February 2010, which included a consultation on the first day between the Director General and me as Committee Chairman.

That Hague visit was planned to coincide with the participation by the 1540 Chairman at the preparatory meeting for the Nuclear Security Summit that took place last month, where I was offered an opportunity to explain the complementarity of the objectives of resolution 1540 with those of the Nuclear Security Summit.

The 1540 Committee was also an active participant in two other related events during this period. The first was a workshop organized in late January in Vienna, Austria, by non-governmental organizations, involving over 100 international experts, including a 1540 expert. It focused on streamlining and updating nuclear security and nuclear counter-terrorism. The second event was the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference, organized by the Center for Energy and security Studies with other governmental and other partners as a retrospective and prospective on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as State parties prepared for the NPT Review Conference now underway. Together with a 1540 Committee expert, the Chairman used the occasion to present the requirements of resolution 1540 as a means to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

Other outreach events during this period, as covered by a Committee member or an expert, included the following: on the nuclear theme, a workshop on reducing risk from radioactive materials (Arlington, USA, 2-3 February), a workshop on nuclear detection architecture (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, 23-25 March), and an IAEA/CTITF workshop on preparedness and response to terrorist attacks with nuclear material (Vienna, Austria, 29-31 March). On the biological theme, the events included a US-sponsored regional workshop for African States, focused on the implementation of resolution 1540 in the biological area (Nairobi, Kenya, 2-5 February); and two table-top exercises in February and March, organized for Latin American and Caribbean states, with focus on preparedness and responses to bioterrorism attacks (Cancun, Mexico, and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago). On export control, 1540 Committee experts contributed to workshop-type briefings on this subject organized by US officials for Algerian officials (Washington DC, USA, 25-29 January); and participated in the 29th session of the WCO enforcement Committee, combined with consultations with WCO officials. The OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security has been active is seeking to strengthen cooperation with the 1540 Committee. On 18 February, a representative of the 1540 Committee Chairman, presented a briefing on the work of the Committee and discussed ways to strengthen the relationship with OAS, including by identifying a 1540 focal point.

The Committee has streamlined its method of work, aiming to hold monthly meetings and as many meetings of its four working groups as necessary to guide and review the work of the Group of Experts. On 14 April, I met informally with representatives of Member States that have not yet presented a first report to the Committee to encourage them to do so. It is my intention to follow up through bilateral dialogues with them.