

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) delivered by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

(spoke in Spanish)

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), which deal with the issue of terrorism, I would like to make some remarks on the cooperation among the Committees.

As requested by the Security Council in all its recent resolutions pertaining to the 1267 Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee, and more specifically in resolutions 1805 (2008), 1810 (2008) and 1822 (2008), we have worked on enhancing the ongoing cooperation among our three Committees, including our expert groups.

Over the past six months, the three expert groups have continued to implement simultaneously their common strategy, approved by the three Committees in 2007, in order to assist States in providing the requested information to the three Committees. After the first regional workshop, held in Senegal at the end of September 2007, for West and Central African States, and a second one, held in Botswana at the end of 2007, for the Southern African States, the third subregional workshop for the Northern and Eastern African States is taking place in Kenya, from 11 to 13 November 2008. All three events are organized in cooperation with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The workshops have provided an opportunity for the three expert groups to enhance Member States' understanding of the differing mandates and roles of the three Committees and interact directly with the officials in charge of implementing the measures outlined in the respective resolutions. That common strategy is also being considered for other regions.

The success of the workshops is reflected in the content and quality of the new reports and additional information on States' implementation of the resolutions provided by the States to the three Committees. That success has led to an effort to apply a common approach to other areas where the three expert groups are being encouraged to intensify their cooperation. In particular, the expert groups are working towards a common strategy to assist the three Committees in their cooperation with key international, regional and subregional organizations and relevant United Nations agencies and entities, as directed by this Council in resolution 1822 (2008). That is another concrete example how cooperation and coordination among the three Committees and their expert groups can be enhanced with the use of common resources to increase efficiency and minimize possible duplication when each group approaches the same organization on similar issues.

(spoke in English)

Another concrete example of such cooperation is the visits to Member States carried out jointly by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the experts of the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee. Over the past six months, such joint visits have been conducted to South Africa and Egypt, and another is scheduled for later this month. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the 1267 Monitoring Team are also preparing to participate, for the first time, with the experts of the 1540 Committee in a new series of regional workshops on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the first of which will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, at the end of November. Those workshops are being organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and sponsored by the Government of Norway and the European Union.

We continue to encourage our three expert groups to share information and to work in common areas of interest to facilitate efforts by Member States to implement their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. That exchange of information also relates to technical assistance and includes sharing experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of the resolutions. The three Committees welcome that further evidence of the close working relationship between the expert groups. The Committees attach great importance to the joint work and, in order to promote it further, hope that the Secretariat will take every advantage of actions related to the Capital Master Plan once again to ensure the co-location of the Monitoring Team with their colleagues in CTED.

The three expert groups continue to cooperate within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), established to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Monitoring Team, CTED and the experts of the 1540 Committee are not only all part of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, they also play a leading role in some of the working groups.

(spoke in French)

That cooperation is crucial to the effectiveness of the work of the respective Committees and essential to the coherence of the important contribution of the Council to the fight against terrorism. Avoiding duplication of efforts is of paramount importance. On the occasion of the previous briefing in May 2008, a 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 to better understand the specificities and complementarities of our work. An updated version of the table is available today and has been posted on our respective websites. It is used in our various outreach activities and interactions with Member States, with which rests the primary responsibility to honour the obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. A better understanding of what is required can only be beneficial to the effective implementation of the

measures decided by the Council and, ultimately, to countering terrorism and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and cooperation by all continues to be crucial. The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and their respective expert groups remain committed, within their respective mandates, to continue the fight against terrorism and are convinced that their work contributes to the overall United Nations and international efforts to assist States to fully implement the various resolutions. In that context, the three Committees look forward to further guidance from the Council on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate their efforts, as indicated in resolutions 1805 (2008), 1810 (2008) and 1822 (2008).