

18 January, 2005

Briefing by the Chairman of the CTC to the Security Council

Mr. President,

At today's meeting in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee I would like to brief the Security Council on the activities carried out by the Committee during the last three months and to submit the fourteenth work programme for the next 90-days period from 1 January to 31 March 2005.

Before presenting my remarks let me take this opportunity to express appreciation to the delegations of Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan and Spain for their outstanding contribution to the work of the Committee during their Security Council membership term. I would also like to welcome the delegations of Argentina, Denmark, Greece, Tanzania and Japan, which have already actively engaged in the activities of the CTC as the new members of the Security Council.

I should like to start the first open briefing of 2005 by considering the work of the Council during 2004. Security Council resolutions 1535 (2004), 1540 (2004) and 1566 (2004), as well as other decisions adopted by the Security Council, created a new, more comprehensive and multifaceted agenda for the Council. The Council's continued focus on the different aspects of counter-terrorism has put additional challenges before the CTC. This developing agenda requires additional efforts to accelerate the revitalization process, particularly in terms of making the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) fully operational. The Committee is also focused on enhancing the working capacity of the Committee through elaborating new practical tools and resources for effective monitoring of the implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001). I wish to express my gratitude to the Executive Director of the CTED, Mr. Ruperez, and

his team for their very useful work and growing contribution to carrying out the tasks of the Committee. Throughout the period covered by the thirteenth work programme the CTC continued to rely on the support of the Secretariat. We are very grateful to all Secretariat officers involved.

Reviewing the reports submitted by Member States to the Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution 1373 (2001) remained one of the CTC's key tools in monitoring implementation of the resolution and maintaining regular dialogue with the States on their progress in enhancing counter-terrorism capacity. By 31 December 2004 the Committee had received 551 reports from Member States and others. This included first reports from 191 Member States and 6 from others, 160 second reports from Member States and 2 from others, 119 third reports from Member States and 1 from others and 72 fourth reports from Member States. It should be noted that the CTC will receive the fifth round reports from some Member States in the coming months. But at the same time the analysis of the CTC experience of dealing with Member States' reports has revealed two problems and we need to double our efforts to tackle them.

The first problem is a shortage of expert capacity, which we hope will be remedied with the full establishment of the CTED. During the period covered by the thirteenth work programme the Committee set out to review 40 reports. The CTC exceeded this target, and in total reviewed 49 reports. However, this figure is still lower than the 65 reports reviewed during the previous 90-day periods.

Another matter of concern is the growing number of Member States that are late in submitting their reports to the Committee in compliance with the resolution 1373 (2001). On 20 December 2004 the Chairman of the CTC submitted to the President of Security Council the official list of 75 Member States which had failed to meet the deadlines for the submission of their reports to the CTC. I would like to reaffirm that the CTC through its CTED stands ready to offer necessary assistance and guidance to

States in their implementation of the resolution. At the same time the CTC has started considering this problem in a wider context.

An effective monitoring of implementation of the resolution 1373 (2001) goes beyond reviewing reports, and requires additional tools and resources. The Committee continued its efforts to elaborate a new approach to facilitating the provision of technical assistance. In this context the Committee is starting analytical work to assess the assistance needs of Member States, and to integrate this analysis into the process of reviewing reports. Following guidance from the CTC, the experts of the CTED have already prepared first draft assessment letters to some Member States. It is the intention of the Committee, if the State concerned agrees, to share such assessments with interested donor States and organizations. The Committee will continue to work in line with this proactive approach, which supports the CTC's role in the global coordination of technical assistance, and is intended to lead to technical assistance which is more effective and tailored to the real needs of States. At the same time the Committee will continue to update the Directory of Counter Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance and the Assistance Matrix as important information tools for Member States interested in obtaining technical assistance.

Pursuant to Resolution 1566 (2004) reaffirming the Security Council call for all Member States to join the 12 international Conventions and protocols related to terrorism, the CTC continued to pursue this goal as one of its top priorities. The Committee put particular emphasis on early ratification of all 12 Conventions and the importance of their effective implementation in national legislation, whether or not the State was a party to a regional convention related to terrorism. The CTC will continue to encourage Member States to join the 12 relevant international conventions and protocols and to monitor their progress in this area on a regular basis.

On the subject of the achievements of the Committee during the past three months I would like to underscore that the Committee has almost completed preparations for the

first CTC visits to several Member States in compliance with resolutions 1535 (2004) and 1566 (2004). Given the particular importance of visits for achieving the objectives of the CTC revitalization the Committee accelerated the preparatory work for the visits, the first of which is planned for March 2005. Since November 2004 the CTC has been engaged in preliminary consultations with several Member States about possible dates and conditions for a CTC visit. The CTC is committed to conducting visits to Member States to develop a deeper and more direct dialogue with the national authorities, to strengthen monitoring of implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), to evaluate more precisely States' needs for technical assistance to fully implement the resolution..

The CTC attached particular importance to enhancing cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations pursuant to the action plan adopted at the Special meeting of the Committee held on 6 March, 2003. During the period under consideration the CTC was actively engaged in the preparation for its fourth Special meeting with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Committee appreciates the offer made by the Commonwealth of Independent States to co-host the meeting in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 26 to 28 January 2005 and the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan in preparation of it. The Committee remains focused on continuing the development of its relationship with international, regional and sub-regional organizations and the Committee will support practically oriented follow-up actions from the Almaty meeting, with a view to strengthening the global counter-terrorism network.

During the past three months the CTC upheld the fundamental principle of transparency in its work. The web page of the Committee was regularly updated and improved. It should be noted that due to the efforts of the Secretariat now it is accessible in all UN official languages.

Pursuant to the Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) the CTC remained determined to enhance its interaction and coordination with other UN structures involved in the fight

against terrorism. One of the examples of such cooperation was participation of the CTC, the UNODC and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the seminar on counter-terrorism draft legislation in Paraguay in October 2004. The Committee attached particular importance to further cooperation with the Security Council committees dealing with different aspects of preventing terrorism: the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaeda and the Taliban and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning non-proliferation. Informal meetings between the Chairmen of three Committees have taken place with the view to explore new areas of cooperation and coordination between the committees. This approach is contributing to a more coordinated implementation of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy by the Security Council. In this spirit, the Chairmen of the 1267 and 1540 Committees have been invited to the CTC Fourth Special Meeting in Almaty. Also, the Committee has supported cooperation between the experts of the CTC and the Monitoring Team of the Al Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee. The CTC also will seek the appropriate contacts with the Working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004). Such inter-committee cooperation should be carried out in full compliance with the rules of procedures of the related bodies.

In conclusion I would like to make few general points on the fourteenth work programme of the CTC.

Two practical tasks should be prioritized for the CTC for the next three months: 1) to start visits to Member States, 2) to hold the Fourth special meeting with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in Almaty. But all the objectives outlined in the programme could be achieved provided the CTED becomes fully operational in the shortest possible time. Now that the budget and administrative arrangements are completed it is particularly important to ensure timely contracting of experts and personnel who would fit the tasks entrusted to the revitalized CTC.

Thank you.