

[Extract]

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## Security Council

Sixty-second year

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### Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

**Mr. Ambassador Ricardo Alberto Arias**

Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

**Mr. Arias** (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): As Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I am pleased to brief the Council about the work carried out by the Committee since its last report, in September 2006.

At the outset, I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for the trust they have placed in Panama to preside over the Counter-Terrorism Committee. I assure them that I will devote every effort to preside over the Committee while upholding its guiding principles of transparency, impartiality and uniformity of approach.

During the current period, the Committee adopted its work programme for coming quarter. Based on that work programme, the Committee is currently focusing its activities on three main areas, namely, monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001); providing technical assistance to States in a dynamic manner on two fronts; and maintaining dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

With regard to monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee, working through its subcommittees, has been considering the Preliminary Implementation Assessments of Member States, which have been prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). To date, the Executive Directorate has submitted 171 Preliminary Implementation Assessments, with 27 of those having been approved by subcommittees. The Committee expects that all such assessments will have been submitted by the end of May 2007, thereby giving the Committee a comprehensive picture of the status of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

In the process of analysing and approving Preliminary Implementation Assessments, the Committee will also be able to ascertain the respective technical assistance needs of States. With the consent of the countries concerned, those needs will be conveyed to potential donors. However, I must point out that, given the fact that the Committee has yet to agree on a standardized cover letter to accompany those assessments, the Committee has been unable to begin to assess the assessments that have been approved in the subcommittees.

In the coming weeks, the Committee will carry out an overall evaluation of the status of the implementation by Member States of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). That will be based on a working document prepared by the Executive Directorate for that purpose. Among other things, that document will be based on information included in the Preliminary Implementation Assessments and will enable the Committee to develop mechanisms that are better tailored to the individual needs of countries that might benefit from special attention as regards visits and technical assistance.

Another important tool employed by the Committee to assess the implementation by States of resolution 1373 (2001) are the on-site visits aimed at evaluating the implementation on the ground of resolution 1373 (2001) and at identifying potential technical assistance needs. Many of those visits include the participation of representatives from other international organizations, as well as representatives from the Monitoring Team that assists the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

The Committee is currently considering the reports of last year's visits to India and Pakistan. The Committee recently concluded its visit to Turkey and will visit Bangladesh in the coming weeks. Furthermore, Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam have consented to visits. The Committee looks forward to receiving the consent of other countries to be visited. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Member States for their valuable cooperation in the preparations for the Committee's visits, which will certainly advance our common efforts to end the scourge of terrorism.

Lastly, with regard to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee will continue to encourage Member States to ratify and implement

the 16 international counter-terrorism instruments. Recently, the Committee considered an analysis prepared by the Executive Directorate on the progress made by States in adopting and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

With regard to facilitating technical assistance to States, the Committee is considering a technical assistance action plan for 2007 that has been prepared by the Executive Directorate. It is expected that that will bear fruit in the coming months. As it has been put forward, the action plan sets out a road map for future work with donors and recipients of assistance aimed at helping recipients to speed up the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee has also approved a new and updated technical assistance matrix that will serve as a crucial tool in that process.

Making use of its experience in facilitating the provision of technical assistance to the States of the Pacific Islands Forum, and working through its Executive Directorate, the Committee is developing similar programmes for the Economic Community of West African States and the Caribbean Community.

The Committee is continuing to strengthen its relations and is cooperating with international, regional and subregional organizations. In that regard, the Committee is working on the arrangements for the Committee's fifth special meeting with those organizations, which will take place in Nairobi in October 2007. The meeting will be held on the themes of preventing the movement of terrorists and effective border security. In addition, the Committee recently adopted an action plan to follow-up its four previous special meetings with international, regional and subregional organizations.

Likewise, in the context of strengthening our relations with international organizations devoted to combating terrorism, the Committee was briefed by Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Chairperson of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

With regard to dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), the Committee, with the support of the Executive Directorate, will continue to inform the Council about the implementation by Member States of that resolution, as well as about the efforts undertaken to encourage countries that have not yet reported to do so.

The Committee is continuing to evaluate the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). We acknowledge that it is a complex endeavour and has diverse legal and constitutional frameworks that require varying national approaches. The Committee will also continue to examine the scope and potential need for the provision of international technical assistance in that area.

Finally, in addition to the three main areas of activity identified in the Committee's work programme, the Committee is carrying out several functions that are part of its daily work. One of those is to promote best practices and standards related to the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). In that regard, the Committee is working to identify and compile such practices, with a view to helping Member States to fully comply with their obligations.

The Committee is also continuing to play its part in the implementation of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Consequently, the Committee, through its Executive Directorate, is participating actively in the work of the Implementation Task Force in the areas assigned to it in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly, which relate to enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism. The Committee is also assisting Member States to implement those provisions of the Strategy that fall within its mandate.

Furthermore, the Counter-Terrorism Committee will continue to explore ways of improving interaction and cooperation with the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004), as well as their expert groups. In that regard, under the common strategy developed together with the expert groups of the other two Security Council committees and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the Committee will continue to pay special attention to those Members that are late in submitting relevant information on their efforts to implement resolution 1373 (2001).

Before concluding, I would personally like to thank Mr. Javier Rupérez and all the staff of the Executive Directorate for their commitment both to the fight against terrorism and to the Committee. In addition, as this will be the last briefing that Mr. Rupérez will attend in his capacity as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I would also like to wish the Executive Director the best of luck in his future endeavours.