

NEW ZEALAND MISSION to the UNITED NATIONS



Te Māngai o Aotearoa

ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 25TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017-3515, USA
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: www.nzmissionny.org

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
RESOLUTIONS 1540 AND 1673**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROSEMARY BANKS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND**

ON BEHALF OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

23 FEBRUARY 2007

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

I welcome the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum Member States represented in New York, namely Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country New Zealand. Today's discussion is particularly relevant to our region, as we try to address the challenges of meeting the requirements of UNSCR 1540 and 1673.

At the outset, I would like to stress the Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum fully recognize the importance of UNSCR 1540 and take their obligations seriously. However, as we have said previously before the Council, there are considerable capacity and resource challenges in our region, particularly for smaller States, in meeting the resolution's obligations both in terms of reporting and implementation.

From our perspective, cooperation between the Council, international and regional organisations, and Member States can be extremely helpful in addressing the challenges faced in our region. We would like to offer several brief comments on how to optimise cooperation:

1) When planning outreach through regional groupings, particularly to the small States in our region, the Council needs to be realistic about the capacity and competing obligations of those States. This means that, where possible, the Security Council should try and combine the approaches of the three relevant Committees, so that there is a coordinated dialogue between the Council and the regional organization over reporting and implementation obligations. We understand fully that the scope of the three resolutions is different, but do think that there are synergies and efficiencies possible in combined outreach from the Security Council. A streamlined approach will be far more effective in building successful engagement.

2) It is important to recognize that small States have extremely limited resources, and are not in a position to absorb multiple technical assistance approaches. To be specific, in our own region, we feel that more than one or two such projects a year would be difficult. Given the limitations imposed by the capacity restraints of small member States, the Council should be prepared to prioritise its requirements. We note that joint planning is currently underway between the CTED and the UNODC to hold a workshop in our region on legislative drafting mid-year. We note that the 1540 expert group is also interested in a regional workshop, and hope the committee can consider a single coordinated event. Our New York Missions will be happy to talk further about how this coordination can be advanced.

3) One size does not fit all. Workshops need to be targeted to the specific needs of the region and should be developed in close cooperation with the regional members well in advance of the event. Consultation and a realistic lead time should help development of a project of the greatest possible relevance to the region. Assistance also needs to be able to take into account the specific needs of individual States.

4) Technical assistance needs to be a whole package. Workshops are very helpful but are not the answer on their own. There needs to be a continued focus on capacity building through the implementation stage. It is important to set up ongoing and more tailored technical support in follow-up to workshops. This will require ongoing investment and support from the international community.

In closing we in the Pacific greatly appreciate the 1540 Committee's efforts to engage with the region. We have the will to play our part and look forward to the international community's ongoing support and assistance.