Briefing by H.E. Mr. Johan Verbeke, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities, to the Security Council on 6 May 2008

(comprehensive version)

Mr. President,

- 1. The sanctions regime established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and other relevant resolutions is a powerful tool in the fight against Al-Qaida and Taliban related terrorism as the measures taken against individuals and entities on the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee's Consolidated List are universal in nature and can hence complement measures taken at the national, regional and sub-regional levels.
- 2. The annual report, submitted to the Security Council on 18 January 2008, contains an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007, which aimed at improving the effectiveness and the implementation of the sanctions regime.

I. The Committee's Consolidated List

Mr President,

3. <u>Improving the quality of the Consolidated List</u> continues to be at the core of the Committee's work and in this regard, I would like to stress that the Committee relies on the information provided by Member States to update the List.

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- 2008. Identifying possible cases of non-compliance constitutes an ongoing exercise and the Committee will continuously follow up on these.
- 15. The Committee further considered the issue of the <u>criminal misuse of the Internet</u> by Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates for terrorist purposes. The Committee shares the concerns expressed by Member States over the fact that the Internet constitutes a powerful medium and instrument for Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates. The Committee thoroughly studied papers submitted by the Monitoring Team and found that they provide a good opportunity for the Committee to express its opinion on the matter. Although this is a complex issue of which certain aspects clearly go beyond the Committee's mandate, it was agreed to continue the discussion in the future.
- 16. The Committee is also, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team, continuing to build its links with relevant <u>international</u>, <u>regional and sub-regional organizations and agencies</u> (IROs) in order to develop new tools to assist Member States in implementing the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions measures. In this regard, the Committee will be reviewing its IROs strategy and the new proposals submitted by the Monitoring Team for enhanced cooperation with key IROs. The briefing by Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to the Committee on 21 April 2008 was extremely useful in this context.
- 17. This week, the Committee is starting its consideration of the <u>Eighth report of the Monitoring Team</u>, which was submitted to the Committee on 31 March 2008, in accordance with Annex II, para

occurred in the region during the months prior to the trip had underlined once more that the terrorist threat in the Sahel region is real. Whereas all three countries had a good understanding of the sanctions regime and demonstrated their strong commitment in the common efforts to counter terrorism, authorities also clearly expressed their need for assistance in further strengthening their capacities.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1735 (2006), the Committee met yesterday with representatives of Denmark, Liechtenstein, Sweden and Switzerland for an indepth discussion on issues relevant to the 1267 sanctions regime. This exchange of views has been, I think, of mutual benefit and I would therefore like to encourage others to do the same as dialogue of this nature is in my view essential for both the nommittee and the Member States. In this regard, suggestions and experiences C

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