



Security Council

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Letter dated 1 May 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Ecuador, submitted pursuant to resolution 1624 (2005) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Neven **Jurica**
Chairman

Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism



Annex

Letter dated 16 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

[Original: Spanish]

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Republic of Ecuador on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) concerning the incitement of terrorist acts (see enclosure).

(Signed) María Fernanda **Espinosa**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure**Report of the Republic of Ecuador on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005)*****Reform of the legal framework**

In chapter IV of the Ecuadorian Penal Code, whose relevant articles are attached to this report, sabotage and terrorism are defined as criminal offences. This body of law has been continually amended in order to adapt it to new threats and to comply with obligations within the framework of international counter-terrorism conventions ratified by Ecuador. The existing Penal Code includes the principle of territorial jurisdiction. It also includes the principle of active nationality, whereby Ecuadorian penal law is applied to criminal offences that have been committed by Ecuadorian nationals in another country.

Additionally, the Political Constitution of Ecuador is being reformed in order to provide a legal and political framework that responds to the country's current circumstances and needs and is adapted to existing international frameworks.

The incorporation of additional reforms in the criminal, banking and customs spheres has been envisioned. These reforms will facilitate the implementation of counter-terrorism measures, especially with respect to the financing of terrorism. A new institutional strategy is also under consideration, whereby the Public Prosecutor's Office would supervise and monitor institutions and matters relating to the prevention of drug trafficking and money laundering.

The Government has been working on the reform of the Penal Code in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Border control

With regard to paragraph 2 of resolution 1624 (2005), Ecuador has placed special emphasis on international border control, in particular because of Colombia's internal situation, which has obliged Ecuador to keep approximately 11,000 military and police personnel deployed along its northern border (663 km).

An increase in the number of raids between 2004 and 2007 resulted in the dismantling of 164 clandestine camps of irregular groups, including rest areas and temporary drug processing laboratories, and the confiscation of weapons and communications equipment.

Refugees, immigration control and security

Colombia's internal conflict has created a significant humanitarian problem that Ecuador has had to confront and deal with. Since 2000, Ecuador has granted refugee status to approximately 16,000 Colombian citizens and, according to estimates made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 50,000 Colombian citizens have entered Ecuador and are located at the northern border, and are in need of international protection.

* Attachments are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.

Ecuador receives more Colombian refugees than any other Latin American country. In the light of this situation, it has implemented clear rules and procedures for processing requests for refugee status in order to grant this status only to those persons who meet the criteria established by the domestic legal order and international law.

In addition, Ecuador has allowed approximately 500,000 Colombians into its territory as immigrants.

These actions have proved very costly for Ecuador, which has not received financial or technological support in this area. The control measures implemented have required significant investment in human resources, infrastructure and funding in order to provide national institutions with the capacity to respond effectively to this sensitive and ongoing situation.

At the same time, owing to the importance of migration issues, Ecuador has focused on developing a travel documents system that is secure and reliable. The signing of a cooperation agreement with the Government of Canada and the International Organization for Migration led to the establishment in 2004 of an advanced passport printing system, which includes a network of Ecuadorian consulates and national offices that are linked up in order to facilitate data verification and the issuance of travel documents. At present, the Ecuadorian passport has 23 security features that prevent forgery and meet international standards. In the coming months biometric technology will also be incorporated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration is responsible for the issuance of passports and for oversight of control measures, which are continually revised and updated.

At the same time, Ecuador has installed computer hardware in seaports and airports and has strengthened its cooperation with international organizations, including INTERPOL, with a view to sharing information on the migratory movements of possible transnational crime suspects and to preventing international traffic in arms, explosives, hazardous material and precursor chemicals.

The country's security agencies regularly receive updates of the consolidated list with respect to Al-Qaida, the Taliban and individuals and entities associated with them.

Finally, with respect to transport security, Ecuador abides by international laws and customs in the area of air and maritime transport security.
