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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UZBEKISTAN,
AT THE OSCE WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY THE PROPER ROLE OF
THE OSCE IN FACILITATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

Vienna, 27 and 28 January 2011

**Working session 1: Committee view on the proper role of
regional organizations**

Distinguished workshop participants,

Let me begin by thanking the organizers of this event for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about the practical experience and legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in facilitating the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, and also about our country's contribution to the cause of non-proliferation in the international arena.

First point. In its use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, Uzbekistan adheres fully to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which the Uzbek Government signed in 1993.

Second point. As a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), our country carries out constant inspections at the nuclear facilities of the republic and at the enterprises engaged in the extraction of nuclear materials. Both the national oversight agencies and the IAEA inspectors submit regular reports to the IAEA regarding the existence and extraction of nuclear materials and also the movement of such materials and their transfer to other countries.

In 1998, Uzbekistan signed the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Facilities, and in January 2004 – the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (IAEA).

For the purpose of strengthening the system of oversight and control over activities connected with the use of atomic energy, Uzbekistan has also signed the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Safeguards, under which additional inspections are carried out, jointly with IAEA inspectors, at enterprises of the oil, gas and chemical industries and also at facilities of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

Third point. In line with Security Council resolution 1540, Uzbekistan is moving consistently to enhance its system of oversight and control over the movement of materials and equipment that could be used for the development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

Responsibility for monitoring the safety of radioactive materials has been entrusted to the State Inspectorate for Oversight over the Geological Study of Mineral Deposits and the Safe Management of Work in Industry, Mining and the Communal and Public Sector under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, known for brevity's sake as *Sanoatgeokontekhnazorat*. This State Inspectorate prepares and transmits information (reports, statements, notifications and facility declarations) to the relevant international organizations.

Fourth point. In 2008, Uzbekistan passed a Law on Accession to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

A decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2009 confirmed the Rules for the Organization of the System of State Accounting and Control of the Circulation of Ionizing Radiation Sources. Again in 2009, another decision by the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Provisions on the Procedure for State Accounting and Control of the Circulation of Radioactive Substances and Radioactive Waste, and also on the Procedures for State Accounting and Control of the Circulation of Nuclear Materials.

Fifth point. In addition to the aforementioned preventive, protective and mandatory measures in the area of nuclear and radiation safety, Uzbekistan, acting in accordance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development and Production of Chemical and Biological Weapons, is implementing a series of measures aimed at monitoring the use of chemical and bacteriological components at the country's scientific research institutions. A commission to implement that Convention has been established under the Cabinet of Ministers.

In accordance with part VIII, paragraph 4 (C), of the Appendix to the Convention, an annual declaration on the schedule of chemicals is sent to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In addition, using the form adopted at the Third Conference of States Parties to the Convention, Uzbekistan regularly submits to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs a report on the implementation of that Convention.

Sixth point. In accordance with Law No. 82-P of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 26 May 2000, a supplementary provision was introduced to the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan. The Code was supplemented by an article "Development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer, storage, illegal possession and other actions involving bacteriological, chemical and other forms of weapons of mass destruction prohibited under international treaties to which the Republic of Uzbekistan is a party". Failure to observe this article is punishable by imprisonment for a period of 5 to 8 years, while actions resulting in the death of a human being and other grievous consequences – by imprisonment for a period of 8 to 15 years.

Issues having to do with the implementation of that Convention are also discussed in the following Uzbek laws: Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Civil Protection, Law on Defence, Law on Combating Terrorism, Law on Waste Materials, Law on the Transit of Special Freight and Military Contingents, Law on Export Controls, and Law on the Protection of Crops against Pests, Diseases and Weeds.

In this way, the necessary measures have been taken in the Republic of Uzbekistan to bring its national legislation into line with the international commitments assumed with the signing of the aforementioned Convention.

Seventh point. Together with the OPCW, the commission of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan on the prohibition of chemical weapons has organized a number of events in the country dealing with the prohibition of such weapons and bringing together representatives of foreign countries and international organizations.

The Ministry of Health has verified the biological safety procedures and the physical protection of pathogenic organisms stored at Ministry of Health facilities. These facilities satisfy the requirements demanded of facilities involved in research into particularly dangerous and quarantinable infectious diseases.

Eighth point. Uzbekistan is engaged in active bilateral co-operation with United Nations member States for the purpose of implementing resolution 1540.

In early 2006, in accordance with a trilateral agreement between the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Uzbekistan, for the first time spent nuclear fuel was shipped to the country of origin, namely the Russian Federation. The work carried out in this connection was fully in line with the requirements of resolution 1540.

Pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement between Uzbekistan and the United States, as part of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Biological Weapons Proliferation Prevention Program of 5 June and 22 October 2001, work was carried out by specialists from the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency to raise the level of physical protection and biological safety at the Centre for the Prevention of Particularly Dangerous and Quarantinable Infectious Diseases and the Virology Research Institute.

Distinguished fellow participants,

Still with regard to the steps being taken by Uzbekistan to implement resolution 1540, I should like to make specific mention of a genuine contribution by our country to non-proliferation in the international arena.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, speaking at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, first put forward the idea of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia entered into force on 21 March 2009. This important event occurred after the document had been ratified by all the parties to it. In this way, through the efforts of all the interested countries and international organizations and in the overriding interests of every State in the region, the aforementioned

initiative was realized through active, effective and constructive co-operation on the part of all the nations in our region.

This is the fifth nuclear-weapon-free zone on the planet and the first such zone to be established in the northern hemisphere. It shares direct borders with two nuclear States.

The Central Asian zone is having a positive influence on the security and stability of the region, allowing the countries of the region to apply their creative potential to solving their own pressing problems of development, since the institutionalization and formalization under international law of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia has provided a sound basis for their protection.

The significance of President Karimov's initiative stems from the growing geostrategic importance of Central Asia, with its extremely rich natural, mineral, energy, human and other resources, and the fact that this is a region where the geopolitical and strategic interests of many leading countries of the world collide.

In this context, I should like to underscore that Uzbekistan supports the creation of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world, since we firmly believe that a co-ordinated and noble act of international co-operation of this kind will help to strengthen regional and global security.

Thank you for your attention.