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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 895th MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

17 October 2018

On the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

The European Union (EU) and its Member States thank the speakers for attending the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We appreciate the opportunity to learn about ways to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540.

The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for resolution 1540 of 2004 and all subsequent resolutions, including the most recent, 2325 (2016), and resolution 1887 of 2009, which are cornerstones of the non-proliferation regime and are in line with the principles of co-operation and comprehensive security on which the OSCE is based. We encourage the universalization of international non-proliferation treaties. We reiterate our deep concern over the current threats to non-proliferation regimes. There is still a real risk of the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD), nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical (CBRN) weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials, for the benefit of non-State actors, showing that resolution 1540 remains fully relevant today. The possibility of terrorist groups acquiring WMD makes it more imperative than ever to implement these non-proliferation principles and measures, to adapt them to the evolving threat, and also to strengthen international co-operation, including in combating terrorism. We are particularly concerned about transfers to the Middle East of goods and technologies related to means of delivery designed to be capable of delivering WMD.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the practical and effective implementation of these resolutions. It welcomes the progress made at the national, regional and international level in this respect and calls, on the one hand, for all the provisions of these resolutions to be transposed into national law and, on the other hand, for national CBRN action plans to be defined to prevent the acquisition and use by non-State actors of CBRN weapons and materials, their means of delivery and related materials.

The EU reaffirms its full commitment to and support for the work of the 1540 Committee, whose mandate has been extended until 2021. It adopted a decision supporting the activities to implement resolution 1540 in May 2017 in the amount of 2.6 million euros.

The EU recalls that resolution 2325 (2016) has made it possible to adapt and strengthen the tools to combat this threat by increasing international co-operation and the dynamics of assistance and interaction.

The EU promotes awareness and international co-operation to prevent these major proliferation risks in relation to non-State actors. Its decision to financially support the implementation of the resolution in 2017 is a contributing factor, as is its participation in regional contact point training workshops on the implementation of resolution 1540.

The full implementation of resolution 1540 is essential. All EU Member States have submitted a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 1540 Committee, and several of them have developed national action plans that are periodically updated. We support the involvement of the OSCE in projects. For example, the Organization provides assistance in the joint effort to eliminate hazardous chemical weapons within the OSCE area, and develops practical activities such as assisting participating States, upon request, in the preparation of reports and national action plans, drafting national implementing legislation, promoting good practices, and also strengthening the exchange of information related to the implementation of resolution 1540.

As a forum for dialogue, the FSC has its own means to support the implementation of resolution 1540. Some have already been put in place, such as the OSCE contact points, which are an integral part of the 1540 Committee's network and which meet annually. We also pay tribute to all the participating States that, for the sake of transparency, publish and update their reports on the implementation of resolution 1540, and welcome the promising initiative by Poland and Croatia for the introduction of a peer review mechanism.

The EU is convinced that the role and resources of the OSCE must be utilized in such a way as to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 and the related resolutions in a sustainable manner.

Finally, we should like to thank the Swedish Chairmanship of the FSC for the opportunity we had today to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 in the OSCE area.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

¹ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.