

**OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of
UN Security Council Resolution 1540, Vienna - 27 and 28 January 2011**

**Opening Statement by the Chairperson of the
Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC)
Ambassador Stefán Skjaldarson**

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Cooperation, I welcome you to the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

We believe the adoption of the workshop decision is an important contribution to fulfilling the ambitious mandates given to the OSCE by Ministers in December 2009. You will recall that Decision 2/09 asked the OSCE bodies “to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century,” and Decision 16/09 called on us in 2010 to “facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfillment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 UNSCR 1673, and UNSCR 1810” as well as “facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfillment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1887.”

We all know that the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses one of the most serious security threats of our time, not least the danger of such weapons falling into the hands of terrorist organizations and/or non-state actors.

*) Re-distribution due to change of distribution status, text remains unchanged

As I stated in my opening remarks last week in the FSC Plenary, the holding of this OSCE workshop shows clearly the importance the OSCE attaches to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been underlined recently, both at the Athens Ministerial 2009 and at the Astana Summit last December as a priority issue for our Governments. Therefore, now perhaps more than ever, is the right time to identify the proper role of the OSCE in supporting participating States in their facilitation of not only UNSCR 1540 but the nexus of WMD falling into the hands of terrorist organizations or non-state actors and to have a look at the possible integration of non-proliferation into the operational activities of our organization.

It is worth mentioning that Chapter VIII of the UN Charter supports the role of regional arrangements or organizations in dealings with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security – provided that such arrangements/activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

Regional and sub-regional organizations are often to a more extent than global institutions aware of challenges that States in their region face and the specificities of their political and economic situations. Therefore, the OSCE provides *fora* and opportunities to share experiences and lessons learned. Secondly, when States are also part of this co-operation, a networking strategy will help to facilitate implementation. Thirdly, a holistic strategy is also applicable when States can implement the resolution taking into account any high priority development and security concerns. Such strategies to improve cooperation in the OSCE could include the following activities and objectives:

- Encourage and develop networked relations with and across international organizations noting where guidelines, legislation, and measures might be mutually recognized or harmonized, whether regionally or sub-regionally;
- Create more sub-regional activities and tailored dialogues for more explicit sharing and comparing of experiences and lessons learned on implementation outcomes, including assistance that is absorbed and not just delivered;
- Strengthen information exchanges on missions and needs assessments made by international organizations by networking among the Committee, States and organizations, these can contribute to preparation of assessments that can contribute to implementation plans and assistance issues;
- When cooperating with regional and sub regional organizations, to consider the priorities of development, economic and security issues in an integrated or holistic approach;
- Undertaking measures to fulfill aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) can be complementary to efforts dealing with other priority development issues, including post-conflict reconstruction, and with regional security risks and threats, e.g., illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings and organized crime;
- As an example, strengthening border and customs controls and measures against money laundering contribute to development and security goals as well as to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The workshop today and tomorrow will highlight the importance of sustained action and integration by a regional group of states in 2011 toward UNSCR 1540 implementation as part of the OSCE Transnational Threats Strategy. The OSCE workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for participating States to explore possible activities by the OSCE. Such activities might include:

- Assisting participating States in developing national implementation plans as a way of additional reporting and efforts to strengthen national legislation.

- A four-year extra-budgetary project to Support Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 has been created with the aim of strengthening OSCE expertise and capacities to transform existing political taskings into concrete assistance activities and support for global UNSCR 1540 processes.

- Awareness-raising. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair of the 1540 Committee have suggested that a series of practical workshops within the OSCE sphere could be organized together with the OSCE to discuss specific implementation gaps and challenges to set the basis for the targeted work with individual countries on their specific challenges.

Depending on the outcome of the aforementioned possible activities, the interest of participating States and the availability of funds and resources, possible additional programmatic measures could also include:

- The OSCE could, upon request from participating States, provide practical capacity-building in promoting non-proliferation. Projects could be carried out in co-operation with other international organizations and, depending on their mandates, the OSCE Field Operations could also contribute to their planning and implementation.

-- Capacity-building could be provided in areas where the OSCE already has evident competencies, such as border controls, with courses to be provided by for example the OSCE Border Management Staff College.

-- The OSCE could also integrate training to foster co-operation among police, prosecutors, customs, border control, intelligence agencies and military authorities to improve the legal, technical and administrative basis for sound and effective national implementation of non-proliferation legislation and its increased harmonization.

-- In addition, the OSCE could facilitate the broad engagement of technical expertise resident in civil society. Such cooperation could be provided to pertinent civil society organizations as these can play an important role by functioning as clearing houses for information for states and international organizations and a pool of expertise for states to draw from.

Before we move further into the ambitious Agenda of the workshop, I wish to express my gratitude to the new 1540 OSCE Advisor, delegations that have made this Workshop a reality by providing financial contributions and expertise, and other co-sponsors of this initiative, as well as to all participating States who have not hesitated to provide thoughtful inputs. We also warmly thank the United Nation's team for their efforts and advice in the preparatory work. And last, but not least, I would like to express my gratefulness to all that have come a long way to Vienna to contribute to and participate in this very important workshop.