



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Check against delivery

S T A T E M E N T

by Ambassador Branka Latinovic, Acting Head of Arms control Division,
on related activities of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with UNSCR Resolution 1540

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

We strongly welcome the follow up of the OSCE activities with the aim to further improve the capacities of its participating states in the areas which are covered by UNSC Resolution 1540. I like also to express my gratitude to Mr. Vaclovas Semaskevicius, Advisor to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, who visited Belgrade on 20 December 2010.

We see this Workshop as an excellent opportunity to inform on the national activities on the issues related to the implementation on UNSCR 1540 as well as to exchange views on the future modalities of how the relevant OSCE institutions could contribute more to the strengthening of the capabilities of the participating states in this regard.

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- Republic of Serbia shares the common values and goals established by Resolution 1540. We support the commitments and concrete activities of the United Nations as well as the OSCE aimed at establishing effective measures and instruments that would strengthen the international regime of non-proliferation.

- In pursuit of its foreign-policy goals and priorities, the Republic of Serbia has sought to align its laws with the standards, norms, principles and commitments of UN, IAEA, OSCE, EU as well as with those of other democratic countries in the field of arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms trade.

- I like to address some of the priorities from Serbia's point of view and activities it has pursued in connection with the activities under UNSCR 1540.

- The list of activities of the obligations which the Republic of Serbia has implemented under the Resolution 1540 is attached.

- I use this opportunity to inform, briefly, on one very specific project which Serbia launched in 2002, in cooperation with the international community.

- While being firmly committed to remove from its territory all remaining substances that could be used to produce WMD, the Government of Serbia adopted in July 2001 the Decision to start the Project **VIND - Vinca Nuclear Decommissioning Programme**. The VIND is of particular importance in relation to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540, as one individual, national project in these regard.

The most important elements of this project are the following:

- In cooperation with IAEA in August 2002 Serbia realized **the first phase** of the project: transferring the fresh, enriched uranium from the Institute VINCA to the origin state, i.e. the Russian Federation. The transfer of nuclear material was organized with the support of

the IAEA experts. About 1,200 policemen from Serbia were engaged, with the support of a helicopter from Vinca to Belgrade Airport (a route of about 30km). It was a highly risky operation due to the security point of view. It proved to be a successful experience, thanks to the comprehensive international support.

- **The second phase** of the VIND project is planned to be realized in the period 2006-2013. It concerns technological cooperation related to the transfer of spent nuclear fuel to the country of origin (RF) as well as improving the system of management of the radio active material at the Vinca Institute. The whole project consists of 10 phases, of which phases 1 and 2 have been successfully completed, whereas phases 4 and 5 are currently under way.

- For the realization of the VIND project, Serbia cooperates very closely with IAEA, USA, Russian Federation, EU, Czech Republic and Slovenia. The implementation of this project would be postponed without foreign financial and expert support.

- Long-term and comprehensive preparations were made relating to the realization of the second stage of the Project (transfer, characterising and repacking of spent nuclear fuel and preparations for its transport to the Russian Federation).

- Several agreements were signed, including the Treaty with IAEA signed in 2006, as well as with a consortium of Russian companies regarding the realization of the technological aspect of the activities. Agreement between Serbia and the RF on the transport of irradiated nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation was signed in 2009. This Agreement facilitates the realization of the transport of nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation.

- **The second, largest transport of nuclear material** from Serbia to the Russian Federation (Mayak plant-Siberia) began on 18 November 2010 and ended on 22 December 2010. Serbia was able to carry out this sensitive operation, together with international partners.

- A total of 8,030 units of fuel, including 6,656 low enriched uranium components and 1,374 highly enriched uranium components along with 4.6 kg of plutonium, travelled for more than a month under strict security measures.

- The second phase cost about 55 million \$, from which 25 million \$ was spent on transportation. Serbia provided 60% of the funds, while the rest was donated by the EU, USA, Russia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. Also, the Ministry of Science of Serbia supported the training of the personnel from Vinca at the best training centres in the RF, Czech Republic and the USA.

- Significant progress has been made also regarding **the physical protection of nuclear objects in Serbia**. It is one of the most advanced systems in the world. The support of IAEA and the USA was decisive. For the IAEA, the system of the protection of nuclear objects established in Serbia presents the good model which could be implemented in the other countries.

- In this way Serbia has shown to be an able reliable partner to the international community for the most delicate issues such as the matter to eliminate the threat of nuclear terrorism and removal of the potential environmental problem. Serbia has joined a group of countries that no longer poses highly enriched uranium on their territory.

- VIND project presents the biggest technical project of cooperation in the history of IAEA. The successful ending of the VIND project will contribute decisively to the improvement of nuclear security in Serbia as well as in the region. Namely, after the transfer of all spent nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation, Serbia will become a nuclear safe country owing to the international donors.

Mr. Chairman,

Regional projects, such as improvement of the export control regime as well as VIND presents the best example that the complex and high security risk issues could be realized successfully only in cooperation with the international community.

We are facing together the tasks of how the OSCE could further improve activities in this important area covered by UNSCR 1540 with the aim to respond to national requirements of the OSCE Participating States.

- Our opinion is that of particular importance to maintain the regularity of the OSCE Workshop on the issues covered by UNSC Resolution 1540;

- As the OSCE Participating States as well as UN member states, we are faced with the task of further improving the implementation of UNSCR 1540. One of the ways is adoption of the Action Plan on the implementation of Resolution 1540. In spite of the fact that adoption of this document is not of an obligatory nature, its adoption will assist the countries in improving their capabilities in this regard. In that context, our view is that adequate arrangements of the OSCE could be elaboration of the draft model of the Action Plan on the implementation of Res. 1540. In this way the process of adoption of the Action Plan on the national level would be hastened.

- The fulfilment of the international obligations depends also on the level of education and capabilities of personnel to respond to the new challenges. Regarding the successful realization of the VIND project, Serbia in cooperation with the IAEA, USA, RF and others, improved the personal abilities of the staff included in this program through the different training activities in the international centre. The OSCE could develop some specific programs in this regard, first of all, in cooperation with some of the OSCE participating states which have advanced activities in the field of non-proliferation and an adequate system of measures of protection.

- Having in mind the importance of regional approach within the OSCE area, Organization is in an optimal position to develop, assist and support initiative and activities on regional and sub-regional level relating to Resolution 1540. Further improvement of regional projects and cooperation in the area of activities covered by Res. 1540 would be of common interest.

Thank you.

In accordance with resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1887 (2009) the Republic of Serbia submitted its Reports in 2005, 2006 and 2008. We have started preparation of the new Report, with the aim to update the information about the legislation and measures regarding the implementation of Resolution 1540, since the previous Report submitted to the SC 1540 Committee in 2008. Our firm determines is to take further steps with the view to improve measures regarding the implementation of the obligations under UNSCR 1540.

Some of the new activities in the field of non-proliferation are the following:

- The new Law on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction was adopted by the National Assembly (the Parliament) on 11 May 2009;
- Fully respecting the recommendations of the BTWC Sixth Review Conference, the Parliament of Serbia adopted on 29 May 2009 the Law on Withdrawing the Reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol;
- Also, the Government of Serbia adopted in July 2010 the Framework Law for the Implementation of the BTCW Convention. The aim of this draft Law is to reiterate again our commitments to full implementation of the obligations under the BWC. Also, this Law obliged the relevant authorities to restart the preparations for the adoption of a new Law, in the line with the draft Law which was verified by VERTIC. Namely, at the beginning of 2009, it submitted the draft Law to the VERTIC for expertise and verification. The experts from VERTIC highly qualified the proposed draft Law. In spite of these efforts, as a result of financial constraints which created a new situation, we have not yet adopted the draft Law which was prepared and verified by VERTIC;
- **Export control is a very important element of the overall security policy.** The region as a whole pays particular attention to this issue. Countries of the region made significant efforts to harmonize their legislation with the EU standards and policy relating to this field.
Within the long-term project of assistance to the Western Balkans, the EU has launched a project “Support to Arms Export Control” whose implementation has been entrusted to BAFA and SIPRI. Also, the United States Government, through the EXBS Program provided assistance realized by the US Embassy in Belgrade, to the relevant authorities, including the Customs Administration, in improving technical equipment and the training of personnel, especially regarding identification of dual-use goods.
- Serbia has applied to regulate its membership of the Wassenaar Arrangement. Also, we have started the national procedure to regulate our status within the Nuclear Suppliers’ Group.
- We also organized, together with Hungary as the current Chair of NSG, the first regional seminar on the issue regarding the Nuclear Suppliers’ Group. The seminar was held on 27 and 28 March 2010 - Belgrade;
- The Protocol between the Republic of Serbia and the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional to the Agreement between the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed on 3 July 2009.

- The Law on Protection against Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety (“Official Journal of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 36/09) was adopted on 12 May 2009.
- In accordance with this Law, the Agency for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety of Serbia was established.
- Parliament of Republic of Serbia adopted in 2009 a new criminal offences to the Criminal Law which introduced new offences related to 1540.
- Some other activities are under way with the aim to further improve and inovating our export control system.