

ENGLISH only

**OSCE WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY THE PROPER ROLE OF THE OSCE IN
FACILITATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

27-28 January 2011, Vienna

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**Contribution of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
/OPCW/to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540**

1. As regards chemical weapons, the obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) are consistent with those enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). UNSC Resolution 1540 encourages States to adopt the CWC and to implement all its provisions, including those on the adoption of concrete legal and administrative measures to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

2. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), as an international organisation specifically referred to in the text of Resolution 1540, has developed the knowledge and experience that are of direct relevance to the obligations under the Resolution 1540. Parties to the CWC have the distinct advantage of benefiting from the programmes of the OPCW, which has already acquired considerable experience in assisting Member States in fulfilling their implementation obligations pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Over 100 States Parties to date have received assistance under the OPCW Plan of Action on Article VII, which concerns national implementation.

3. Full and effective national implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including control measures with regard to relevant chemicals and materials, assistance and protection, and international cooperation for peaceful use of chemistry, remains an essential condition for providing reliable non-proliferation assurances. A sizeable number of States Parties still need to take some or all of the necessary measures to implement the obligations under the CWC, and a number of these States Parties still require assistance and technical support.

4. The OPCW closely cooperates with the UN Security Council Committee established under Resolution 1540 in assisting States to introduce effective national non-proliferation measures in the chemical domain.

**Seminar on the OPCW's Contribution in the Sphere of Security and Non-proliferation;
11-12 April 2011, The Hague**

5. The completion of the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles will shift the global focus from chemical weapons disarmament to the prevention of the acquisition of chemical weapons. The transition of the OPCW's verification regime from a focus primarily on disarmament to one that concentrates on non-proliferation, cooperation, and assistance will call for adjustments in the mandates given to the OPCW by its Member States, and for a conceptual rethinking of some of the Organisation's programmes and approaches.

6. The seminar will promote the implementation of the CWC, recognising the changing chemical weapons threat, and will facilitate international cooperation in key areas relevant to

the non-proliferation objectives of the CWC through building synergies and strengthening a collaborative framework between the OPCW and all OPCW stakeholders and international partners.

7. The Seminar will cover four broad subjects, under the overall topic of the non-proliferation of chemical weapons: implementation of the CWC in the chemical industry, including sampling and analysis relevant to CWC implementation, convergence of biology and chemistry: implications for the CWC regime; OPCW support against misuse of toxic chemicals and participation in global efforts against terrorism, and chemical plant and transportation security.

8. The Seminar will consider, inter alia, lessons learned to date in the work of the international partners, including from the implementation of Resolution 1540, and lessons learned in identifying and implementing best practices for capacity building in preventing non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

The OPCW as a platform to enhance safety and security at chemical plants

9. Strengthening safety and security at chemical plant sites is an important task in preventing the hostile use of chemicals. With the rapid development of chemical industry production and bio-agents, as well as biochemistry, and their spread to new areas of the world, the enhancement of security in the area of legitimate production, transportation, and use of chemicals and bio-agents is assuming much greater importance. In partnership with the ICCA, CEFIC, EU, national governments, and national chemical associations, the OPCW is developing its role as a platform of support for global cooperation in decreasing the chemical threat by promoting awareness of chemical security and safety, training, exchange of best practices and fostering cooperation between chemical professionals.

OPCW programme of table-top exercises on the preparedness of States Parties to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals

10. Following the successful conduct of the table-top exercise on the preparedness of States Parties to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals conducted in Warsaw, Poland, on 22 and 23 November 2010 in Poland, with 150 participants, including over 70 international representatives from 29 countries, and representatives of 14 international and regional organisations, the OPCW will develop a programme to address the different stages of the prevention of and preparedness for a crisis linked to the malicious use of toxic chemicals.

11. The table-top exercise programme will create a platform to review and improve the interaction between the different national agencies and authorities involved in the countering of terrorist threats involving toxic chemicals. The programme will support States Parties in adopting measures to review their state of prevention, preparedness and response to terrorist incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, to integrate these measures with preparations they have already made to mitigate risks associated with chemical accidents and environmental incidents, and to address CBRN terrorism risks in a comprehensive fashion.

12. The OPCW will promote this comprehensive approach in coordination with other relevant agencies, such as the IAEA, the United Nations, the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, UNICRI, Interpol, Europol, the CTITF, as well as regional organisations and relevant NGOs such as SIPRI and VERTIC.