

FSC.DEL/10/11
28 January 2011

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY MR. HENDRIK VAN DE VELDE,
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO THE
OSCE, AT THE OSCE WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY THE PROPER
ROLE OF THE OSCE IN FACILITATION OF UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

Vienna, 27 January 2011

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to join Ambassador Jenkins and Ambassador Varvesi in welcoming you, on behalf of Belgium, to this workshop to identify the role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540.

Since the start of the new millennium, the risk that weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery may fall into the hands of terrorists or non-governmental actors has been identified by the international community as one of the principal threats to peace and security.

Co-operative action against this threat has become an important item on the international agenda. United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, adopted on 28 April 2004, was the climax, contributing in a major way to the feeling of urgency among States and providing a legal basis for undertaking national, multinational and multilateral actions. The follow-up resolutions, resolution 1673 and resolution 1810, urged States to take legislative measures to counter illicit trafficking in materials and technologies connected with weapons of mass destruction and to improve the protection of installations involving chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear risks.

Resolution 1540 also called for international action to strengthen non-proliferation. Several initiatives have been adopted in this area. At both the national level and as a Member State of the European Union (EU), Belgium is contributing to several of these initiatives, including the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction of 2003 and its new elements adopted in 2008.

Last year, the President of the United States took the initiative with a Nuclear Security Summit, bringing together the leaders of 47 countries with important responsibilities as regards making nuclear materials on their territories secure.

Lastly, resolution 1540 underscored the important role played by legally binding multilateral treaties and international agencies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in this area. The Belgian Government fully recognizes this important role and made a first substantial contribution to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund, just a month ago.

Effective action against proliferation should be combined with increased disarmament efforts so as to help make the world a safer and more peaceful place. That is why the Belgian Government supported in full measure the special session of the United Nations Security Council on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament of 24 September 2009, which resulted in the adoption of resolution 1887 reaffirming all the aforementioned initiatives and instruments but at the same time calling for the strengthening of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and, subsequently, the important new measures adopted by the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

Regional organizations such as the OSCE constitute an ideal forum for the exchange of information and the development of best practices and for joint action and training in the area of border control and export control policies among States. It is for this reason that the Belgian Government co-sponsored the FSC decision to organize this workshop and lends its full support to co-operative action in the field of non-proliferation.

I am gratified that the many other organizations active in this area, including the European Union and NATO, are present here today. This should enable us to take due account of their activities when we are looking to develop the OSCE's activities. I am convinced that we all have the will to make the best of our resources. To do this, we must focus on the complementarity of our organizations and on their comparative advantages, taking into account in particular their composition, their experience and their presence in the field.

I am convinced that this discussion could be deepened within the framework of this workshop. I should like to thank in particular the new OSCE adviser on resolution 1540 for his important contribution to the preparations for this event. I hope that at the end of this workshop we shall all have a solid basis for determining the course of the OSCE's activities in this area.