

ENGLISH only

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

**Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the  
Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC)  
Ambassador Stefán Skjaldarson**

Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my opinion, this workshop has been very fruitful and made an important contribution to the work of OSCE in line with the tasking we have from Ministers and Heads of State or Governments regarding our common effort to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The wide interest in this meeting and the overwhelming participation of nearly all invited participating states and organizations is encouraging. We have also learned through many of the presentations and our discussion during the workshop that implementing this resolution properly is in the crucial interest of all participating states. Unfortunately, some states may not yet be in a position or be able to implement UNSCR 1540. While there is a willingness to implement the resolution, there frequently is a lack of capacity. There have been numerous requests for assistance from participating states, and whenever assistance has been offered in return, it has been welcomed. While individual countries may be able to make available some of the assistance needed, this is not always sufficient. All relevant knowledge and expertise needed for implementing resolution 1540 is not concentrated in any single country, institution or organization. It is spread among various actors and organizations. The wide range of competencies that is of relevance is documented by the variety of presentations from the various parts of the OSCE and the organizations participating in this meeting.

As noted in my opening remarks, I believe that regional organizations can have an important role to play in the implementation of UNSCR 1540, not least in capacity building, as they have a comparative advantage through their knowledge of regional specificities.

In many of the presentations we have had during the workshop it was also noted that the OSCE competencies could be of great assistance to the 1540 Committee as well as to the participating states. We have all just heard the very extensive and interesting reports from the rapporteurs for all the sessions so I will not go

into details. But nevertheless, I venture to say that the presentations and the discussion we have had during the last two days has been both interesting and encouraging. We have heard a lot of ideas and suggestions on how to intensify our common effort to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and what role the OSCE can play in that respect. We will in due time issue a report on the results of this workshop where we will try to sum up the discussion and possibly put forward concrete ideas on how the OSCE should move forward in assisting the participating states in implementing UNSCR 1540.

Before I close this workshop, I would like to take the opportunity to first thank the co-sponsors, the UNSCR 1540 Committee, and UNODA for their professional support in organizing this meeting and secondly thank all the representatives of the international organizations and representatives of civil society that took part in this workshop. I would also in particular like to thank Mr. Vaclovas Semaskevicius who has been an engine of energy to make this two-day event a reality. Let me also mention that this meeting was organized through contributions provided by several governments. We are grateful for their generous support.

On a final note, allow me to express my appreciation to all participants that took active part in our deliberations. I would in particular thank those that came from a far to Vienna to participate in our workshop and I wish them all a safe trip home.