

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,**

I would like to express on behalf of Members of the 1540 Committee the gratitude for giving me the opportunity to address the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation. It is the second time since the establishment of the Committee we have been able to share with you the results of our work and seek your valuable support for pursuing the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) within the OSCE area.

As you all are aware, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials constitutes a threat to international peace and security. This assessment has been fully recognized by the UN, including by the Security Council in its resolution 1540 (2004), as well as by many regional and sub-regional organizations. OSCE has reflected proactively this perception in its Principles governing non-proliferation of 1994 and later on in the Strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century, adopted in 2003 in Maastricht. Moreover, we welcome the Decision adopted by the OSCE Participating States at the Ministerial Meeting in Slovenia with the view to support the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

With resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council adopted the first international instrument that deals with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials in an integrated and comprehensive manner. It establishes binding obligations for all States regarding non-proliferation and is aimed at preventing and deterring illicit access to such weapons and weapon-related materials. The resolution requests all States to report on measures they have taken or intend to take to implement the obligations under the resolution.

Since the adoption of the resolution in 2004, 131 UN Member States and one organization have submitted national reports on measures they undertook or intend to take to implement their obligations under the resolution. I am pleased to inform you that all OSCE Participating States have submitted national reports. In response to the examination of the first national reports by the Committee, 84 States provided additional information, 46 of them being OSCE Participating States. I call upon all States to provide additional information to the Committee on national implementation as an ongoing process, including, for instance, in the form of a road map or action plan for addressing remaining measures to be taken to implement the resolution. In doing so, States should take into account the analysis which will be provided by the Committee in the months ahead.

On 27 April 2006, I presented to the Security Council a report on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This report builds on the examination of data submitted in the national reports, the additional information provided by States and the information available in a legislative database developed by the Committee containing national laws and regulations. I would like to share with you some of the findings, conclusions and recommendations that are of utmost importance for furthering the implementation process as well as for enabling States to continue fulfilling the requirements under the resolution.

Legislative measures to counter proliferation remain primarily within the responsibility of Member States of the U.N., and ultimately the implementation of the resolution is a national function and responsibility. That is what makes the role of national legislative, executive and enforcement

authorities so crucial for achieving the goals set forth in the resolution. Your individual contribution, in particular, is what could make a genuine difference in this regard.

This global threat has been addressed by the international community through multilateral legal instruments such as the NPT, CWC, BWC, and by nonproliferation and export controls arrangements. However, the elaboration of, adherence to, and the national implementation of such instruments is far from providing a universal and fool-proof net for preventing the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, their means of delivery and related materials in all its aspects.

Developing, updating and enacting national laws and other measures to prevent the proliferation of and to prohibit access to weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, as well as to prohibit access of non-State actors to such items is an ongoing process that may not always have immediate results. The reasons may lie in the lack of capacity, different national priorities and time-consuming internal procedures. Monitoring the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), however, is a prerequisite to identifying the gaps that exist and to assisting States to fulfill the requirements under the resolution.

The report submitted to the Security Council in April indicates that there are still gaps in the national reports that follow certain regional patterns. The implementation measures undertaken by Participating States of the OSCE are also uneven when it comes to the implementation of all obligations pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) which encompasses accountability, physical protection, border controls and law enforcement efforts and national export and trans-shipment controls including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such export and trans-shipment. On the basis of the findings and conclusions presented in its report to the Council, the Committee's activities to assist States in meeting the implementation requirements of the resolution will concentrate on regions and areas where specific needs were identified.

In this regard, regional and sub-regional outreach activities will be widened and intensified with a view to providing in a structured manner guidance to States for implementing all their obligations under the resolution. Your proactive contribution to support such approach will be highly appreciated. In addition, sharing lessons learned by OSCE Participation States in implementing the resolution and OSCE stance on non-proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery and related materials with other States and regional and sub-regional organizations could facilitate our efforts to pursue the implementation process worldwide.

In our outreach campaign we strive for creating a general awareness of the fact that resolution 1540 definitely does not concern only States that possess the relevant nuclear, chemical and biological related technology. The nexus between WMDs and terrorism can be realized anywhere in our globalized world. Every single country and nation has to get involved in this global effort. There is no safe haven in the face of this threat. Some States might consider that they have nothing to report, as they neither possess WMDs nor the capacity to develop such weapons or related materials. However, there are other ways in which other States or, for example, non-state actors might seek to exploit their territory – using it for instance to ship goods across in transit, or for financing of illegal activity, or as a base to broker the sale of WMD-related goods in other countries.

States should also be aware that unless they meet their obligations in full, by enacting and enforcing national legal and regulatory measures and by committing to international cooperation on non-proliferation, their territories could be exploited in the worst possible way.

The Committee identified and put together both needs and offers of assistance. Many countries are already helping on a bilateral basis or through international and regional organizations with expertise and advice to States lacking knowledge, experience or resources to implement Resolution 1540. We invite both States making offers of assistance and States requesting assistance to take a proactive approach on a bilateral basis, including making use of offers by international organizations, in order to contribute to capacity-building.

As the mandate of the Committee was extended for another two years, until 27 April 2008, it will continue to compile information on the status of States' implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation.

Currently, the Committee considers a draft work program which will specifically and systematically address the implementation by all States of all requirements of resolution 1540 (2004).

Full implementation of resolution 1540 by all States is a long-term objective. It will require continuous efforts at national, regional and international levels on capacity-building and assistance, made by States in implementing this resolution. The first measure of success in the implementation of resolution 1540 is tied up to the degree of advancement in worldwide awareness of, and respect for, the letter and spirit of its provisions. The contribution of OSCE Participating States to these efforts could make a difference in advancing the implementation process.

I would like to conclude by thanking you once more for this opportunity.