

Information Note¹

Event: OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Security Dialogue on-line meeting on non-proliferation of WMD,

Organizers: OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)

Date and Venue: 8 July 2020, on a Zoom! platform

Participants: Representatives from the European Union, Germany, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino, Ukraine, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Spain, United States of America, Belarus, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Canada and the United Kingdom and the FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues
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The 1540 Expert

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) decides that all States shall take and enforce, *inter alia*, effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. It requires, in particular, that they shall develop and maintain effective physical protection and accounting measures, develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking of such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Under OP 11 (e) of resolution 1540 (2004) the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee to provide opportunities for interaction with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In a preambular paragraph of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council recognized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at national, regional, subregional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to the serious challenge and threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 24 June 2020, Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Chairperson of the Forum for Security Cooperation, OSCE, invited the 1540 Chair to nominate a member of the 1540 Committee, or a member of the 1540 Group of Experts supporting the Committee, to participate as a speaker in the “Security Dialogue” of the FSC on-line meeting on devoted to the topic of “Non-Proliferation of WMD” on 8 July 2020. The letter noted that the FSC’s 2015 decision on “The role of the OSCE in support of UNSCR 1540 (2004)” outlined the need for the OSCE to support the global efforts of the 1540 Committee.

Highlights

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk. The Ambassador stated that at the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava, in December 2019, OSCE Ministers of Foreign Affairs had reaffirmed the readiness of the participating States and of the OSCE, as a regional organization under chapter VIII of the UN Charter, to take an active part in the 2020–2021 Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. The meeting today was focused on achieving tangible results. He noted that OSCE’s work on non-proliferation preceded 2004 with the formulation in 1994 of principles on non-proliferation, subsequently updated in 2013.

The 1540 Expert described the objectives of resolution 1540 (2004) and the obligations on Member States to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, to and by non-State actors, including terrorists. The mandate of the 1540 Committee was to report to the

Security Council on the implementation of the resolution, to promote its full implementation and to facilitate technical assistance in this regard. The Expert noted that the OSCE had been involved for many years in the organization of 1540-relevant national and regional workshops.

The Committee was conducting a Comprehensive Review prior to termination of its mandate in April 2021. Its policy was to ensure that Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations and civil society, as appropriate, would be able to contribute fully.

Following presentations by the two speakers, and statements from States' representatives, the discussions concluded by noting that the OSCE had implemented many of the conclusions from the 2016 Review of resolution 1540 (2004) related to regional organisations, including for example supporting the provision of assistance to Member States and information sharing to avoid duplication and to promote complementarity. OSCE and its Member States had ambitious goals with respect to contributions to the 2021 Comprehensive Review.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org