

Information Note¹

Event:	Workshop to identify the proper role of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in facilitation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
Organized by:	The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Date and Venue:	27-28 January 2011, Vienna, Austria
Participants:	<i>States:</i> OSCE participating States (pS) and OSCE Partners for Co-operation; <i>Organizations and other entities:</i> OSCE (Forum for Security Co-operation, Conflict Prevention Center, Action against Terrorism Unit, Strategic Police Matters Unit, representatives of OSCE missions and other field operations), European Union, NATO, UNODC, IAEA, OPCW, UNODA, BWC-ISU (written contribution), UNICRI, Hague Code of Conduct, MTCR, Wassenaar Arrangement, Zangger Committee, 1540 Committee Member and two experts; <i>Other expertise:</i> from the civil society (VERTIC, CENESS, Monterey Institute) and from industry and industry associations (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association, Oerlikon Inc.)

1. Objectives

- Identify added value that regional organizations such as the OSCE can bring to the global efforts aimed at furthering implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Foster discussions on the proper role of the OSCE to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States in the OSCE region.
- Bring together participating States from the OSCE, other international organizations and representatives of industry and industry associations as well as of civil society, the workshop to obtain views from different perspectives that can inform what role the OSCE could play regarding resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) held this workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the OSCE area, looking at how the OSCE can promote dialogue and co-operation on resolution 1540 (2004).

The workshop built on previous decisions within the OSCE on these issues:

- In 2006, the OSCE participating States decided to "hold further exchanges of views [...] with the goal, inter alia, of furthering UN efforts by promoting lessons learned, sharing experiences and facilitating the identification of assistance needs for national implementation" (FSC Decision 10/06 *supporting national implementation of resolution 1540*). These commitments were later reiterated at the Ministerial level in Brussels (MC Decision 10/06);

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.

- In December 2009, MC Decision 2/09 *on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability* decided “to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, making full use of the OSCE’s expertise and comparative advantages”, while MC Decision 16/09 *issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation* (FSC) to “facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfillment by the OSCE pS of the provisions of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006) and 1810 (2008) [and of] resolution 1887 (2009)”;
- In April 2010, the OSCE initiated a project entitled “Support of Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540”. In support of this project, the OSCE has designated a 1540 Adviser.

3. Highlights

The workshop programme comprised mainly four working group sessions and a final plenary to discuss suggestions on a proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of resolution 1540 (2004). Overall the presentations were a means by which States, international organizations and entities shared their experiences and lessons learned on how they facilitated implementation of the resolution with a view to inform or complement areas within the OSCE in determining its role also to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Opening remarks set the scene for discussions, presentations of entities within the OSCE elaborated their contributions to facilitating States’ implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and during the the concluding plenary, a round-table discussion focused on possible options drawing upon the ideas set out in the notional list of suggestions in connection with resolution 1540 (2004) prepared by the FSC (FSC.DEC/14/10). Listed in full at <www.osce.org/fsc/75095>, the notional list of option is:

- An OSCE handbook of best practice guides for implementation of UNSCR 1540 [...];
- Assistance to participating States for the development of national action plans and national legislation [...];
- Partnership by the OSCE with other actors to ensure the effectiveness of its own activities;
- Establishment of internal co-operation and co-ordination among active participating States and within the Secretariat, with the aim of involving all the thematic units dealing with trans-border crime, border management, terrorism, trafficking, etc.;
- Assistance in the development of national implementation plans as a means for providing additional reporting and to strengthen national legislation;
- Awareness-raising;
- Practical assistance to participating States at their request;
- Training.

4. Bilateral consultations

In the margins of the workshop, the 1540 Committee Chairman’s representative and the 1540 Committee experts conducted dialogues with several delegations.

5. Additional comments

Workshop presentations as well as preparatory materials, previous OSCE decisions concerning resolution 1540 (2004) and other related information are available at <www.osce.org/event/unscr1540_2011> and <www.osce.org/fsc/75139>.

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