



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540

As delivered by Chief Arms Control Delegate, Damian Leader
to a joint session of the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation
and the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
July 13, 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States welcomes our speakers today and thanks them for sharing their insight on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. The U.S. is firmly committed to implementing UNSCR 1540 and strongly supports the OSCE efforts to date to facilitate its implementation.

The OSCE January workshop to identify the proper role of the OSCE in the facilitation of UNSCR 1540 provided an opportunity to share views and information on national practices, and to examine how the OSCE as a regional organization could strengthen the long-term viability of this important effort. We are all faced with the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction (or WMD) and their delivery systems. Our work on 1540 unites all of us, as we each have a role to play in countering this common threat.

The January workshop provided an open forum for participating States to share their ideas. As indicated by the Chairman's report, the workshop generated a wealth of proposals and suggestions. The United States welcomes these ideas, and recognizes that, even though we face a shared threat, each OSCE participating State must tailor its plan of action on 1540 to reflect its own national priorities.

I would like to highlight and reaffirm three of the U.S. priorities for UNSCR 1540 work in the OSCE. First, the United States believes the OSCE has a role to play in regional cooperation among participating States. Regional cooperation facilitates the development of common approaches to address the specific challenges faced by sub-regions within the OSCE space.

Second, the U.S. supports adding 1540 implementation work to OSCE field missions' operational portfolios within appropriate mandates. The OSCE field missions can identify and assess local efforts and perform an on-the-ground coordinating function.

Third, the OSCE can assist participating States in their implementation of 1540, particularly in the areas of border controls and proper administrative procedures that would improve States' capabilities to address more effectively the challenges and risks associated with the proliferation of WMD materials and their means of delivery.

The U.S. welcomes the opportunity to share its technical assistance in these areas in particular, and how we have worked to balance security with trade facilitation.

In order to implement any of these approaches within the OSCE, we need a strong, coordinated effort. The United States is encouraged by the OSCE's efforts to date, which have been greatly enhanced by the work of the dedicated OSCE 1540 Project Advisor. His work

has been instrumental in coordinating OSCE efforts, raising awareness, and exploring concrete proposals for ways the OSCE can facilitate 1540 implementation. We believe the OSCE's efforts have greatly benefited from having a 1540 Advisor to serve as the focal point for regional work, and the U.S. believes we should give strong consideration for moving this position into the 2012 Unified Budget of the OSCE, as it would strengthen European cooperative security efforts and activities. Making this a more permanent position would also reinforce our commitment to, and long-term viability of, the OSCE's 1540 implementation efforts.

Mr. Chairperson, we believe the OSCE should continue to make an important contribution to the implementation of UNSCR 1540. By uniting in this effort, the OSCE, as a regional organization, can enhance the security of all states by countering the proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems, and related technology. The U.S. looks forward to hearing participating States' views on concrete steps that can move us forward in this important endeavor to improve 1540 implementation.

Thank you very much.