

OSCE inputs to “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is actively involved in preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorists, which includes the OSCE support to its participating States (pS) in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. The OSCE Group of Friends of the UNSCR 1540 (2004) as well as the FSC Chair’s Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues also play an essential role in strengthening international efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD and promoting global peace and security through information exchange and co-operation.

The OSCE meets requests of its pS for support in implementing the UNSCR 1540 (2004) by providing assistance through country-specific dialogues, regional workshops, and concrete measures, such as improving export and border controls, harmonizing national legislation with international standards, strengthening chemical and biological safety and security, and other measures. The OSCE also offers a range of training and capacity-building exercises for pS, with the aim of strengthening their capabilities and promoting information sharing and co-ordination for developing and implementing National Action Plans (NAP).

In previous years, the OSCE has been particularly active in Central Asia, Mongolia, and Ukraine, working closely with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, UNODA, and other international organizations.

In Central Asia, the OSCE has provided comprehensive support to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan in improving their export controls and creating and updating their control lists. It has also helped these countries develop procedures for identifying dual-use goods, and has conducted various activities to raise awareness of legislative and regulatory measures and enforcement. The OSCE has held multiple regional peer review meetings on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), providing pS with opportunities to exchange best practices, challenges, and experiences on non-proliferation efforts. These meetings have brought together countries of Central Asian region in different formats, including with participation of the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia, and have further helped strengthen regional co-operation in the prevention of the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

Specifically in the Kyrgyz Republic, the OSCE worked closely with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MoEC) to organize regional and national events, such as the Istanbul Peer Review meeting, the Issyk-Kul Peer Review Meeting, and a series of national events on implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The OSCE also provided assistance in the development of two voluntary NAPs on UNSCR 1540 (2004), and in 2021, assisted in developing a third NAP covering the period 2022-2025. Additionally, the OSCE helped develop key legal documents such as the law on export control and its relevant by-laws, the draft law on biological safety, as well as draft governmental decrees related to the implementation of the CWC. In 2023, the OSCE continues to assist the MoEC in implementing the measures outlined in the NAP, including capacity development of state agencies involved in export control, promoting regional and international co-operation, and providing expert support in strengthening legislation related to UNSCR 1540 (2004).

In Ukraine, the OSCE also supports the Government's efforts to prevent non-State actors from acquiring WMD in line with UNSCR 1540, the CWC, and the BWC. The OSCE has been implementing projects in Ukraine since 2018 to support the strengthening of Ukraine's Chemical and Biological Safety and Security.

Through its Chemical Safety and Security projects, the OSCE has supported the strengthening of Ukraine's legislative and regulatory framework in the field of chemical safety and security, as well as border controls over the cross-boundary movement of controlled and toxic chemicals. The OSCE has also established a National Reference Centre for identification of controlled and toxic chemicals, supplying cutting-edge laboratory analytical equipment, and developing documents on inter-agency co-operation.

The OSCE continues to support the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Ukraine through the project aimed to support strengthening country's biological safety and security. The OSCE is supporting the development of a specialized comprehensive training course, the establishment of a multimedia classroom, and the development of a learning management system. The OSCE has also supported harmonization of Ukrainian legislation on biosafety and biosecurity with international standards by developing the draft law on biosafety and biosecurity with relevant bylaws.

The OSCE remains committed to continues to support pS the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) and remains committed to promote non-proliferation efforts in the OSCE region.