

**The OSCE's Partnership in Preventing and Countering Terrorism**  
**Remarks – Head, Anti-Terrorism Issues, Mr. Thomas Wuchte**  
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It is a great pleasure for me to have been invited to address the annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. I take it as a sign of interest in what the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) does and also – might it sound too ambitious – in what areas can the counterterrorism community and the OSCE join their efforts in the fight against terrorism (and specifically as the topic here -- WMD Terrorism). I would like also to thank the Government of Croatia and our colleagues in Brussels for promoting this meeting which has already provided a useful exchange of views where we could take part here and now.

For those of you who do not know me, I joined the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department about a year ago as Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues. In my prior position, I had the pleasure to speak at the 2008 NATO Conference that was held in Berlin where a panel was devoted exclusively to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540). At the time, it was under the rubric, "New Initiatives for the Prevention of Proliferation." I know that many of the speakers yesterday touched upon this resolution, which remains high on the OSCE's agenda as I will explain later, although we are now fast approaching its 10 year anniversary so it is hardly a new initiative.

My remarks today will specifically focus on the OSCE's contribution to enhancing security and argue that the strategic commitments of our organization and the pillars supporting many of the nonproliferation strategies are so identical that there can be no argument against closer collaboration, mutually reinforcing each other's efforts. Not to exploit the similarities in our comprehensive programmatic work would be a waste of resources and be highly counterproductive.

**Strategic Documents Guiding the OSCE's Action against Terrorism**

The OSCE was among the very first multilateral organizations to articulate explicitly the need for sustained, multi-faceted efforts to combat terrorism, with a strong emphasis on prevention, while respecting and protecting human rights. The impetus was given first with the adoption of the OSCE's **Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism**, followed by the OSCE Porto **Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism**.

Building on this Plan and Charter, as well as on a series of decisions, commitments and mandates adopted over the past ten years, the OSCE participating States adopted last December in Dublin the **OSCE Consolidated Framework For The Fight Against Terrorism**. This Framework underlines

that “terrorism remains one of the most significant threats to peace, security and stability, as well as to the enjoyment of human rights and social and economic development, in the OSCE area and beyond”.

The Consolidated Framework reiterates in particular the relevance and full applicability of the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive and co-operative security with regard to the fight against terrorism. But – it is visionary to turn words into action, and to turn action into partnership. WMD Terrorism and our collective efforts do fit into a broader UN Framework and after nearly 10 years we can reflect how this partnership has grown thanks to many in this gathering.

I would like to now give you more details on how the OSCE contributes more directly to preventing and countering terrorism as well as on its more recent work complementing the nonproliferation efforts of UNSCR 1540. The Consolidated Framework highlights a number of strategic focus areas, for the OSCE’s action against terrorism, which are (as many already know) 95% extra-budgetary-funded – I think it is extremely important to underscore that regional approaches require close donor coordination. These key areas include:

- Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework and co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;
- Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
- Promoting dialogue and co-operation in countering terrorism in particular through public-private partnerships – or PPPs – i.e., Civil Society;
- Strengthening travel document security;
- Suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- Supporting national efforts to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of counter-terrorism measures.

### **Cooperation & Collaboration Guiding the OSCE’s Efforts**

As I stated earlier, the OSCE pays a particular attention to co-operation with other stakeholders. We want to help implement existing international instruments to counter terrorism, instead of inventing our own, while being innovative and creative on specific issues at the same time.

On the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security (1999), we co-ordinate closely with the United Nations, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), and under nonproliferation with the United

Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). We work closely with international, regional and sub-regional partners, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), our hosts today, the EU, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorist Center (CIS-ATC), the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS-SCO), the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The OSCE Secretariat, and in particular its **Action against Terrorism** team, serves as primary interface for counterterrorism and the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Center (in cooperation with the Forum for Security Cooperation) has the mandate for collaboration regarding UNSCR 1540.

### **A Regional Effort to Work Towards Practical Measures**

We always look to initiate or further develop collaboration with present or future partners. This means helping each other raise the bar of standards and not pointing fingers. It is worthwhile to reflect back to 2008 and the panel where the former UNSCR 1540 Committee Chair then made a few observations – I quote:

“In this regard I believe that the Secretariat, and in particular UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) should be equipped with additional resources and expert capacities in the area of implementation of Resolution 1540...in coping with various issues of implementation of Resolution 1540 and also to establish and manage a trust fund for visits of experts in Member States requesting assistance in preparing their implementation action plans, legislation or enacting concrete practical measures and projects etc.

“To this end a similar coordination and interaction is needed on a global level between the UN and individual functional organizations and multilateral arrangements. The UN should better use its convening power to bring together all players who are involved, or who can contribute to creation of this kind of global partnership for fighting the threat of proliferation. Nobody who can contribute to implementation of Resolution 1540 should be excluded or left out.”

More than anything else, national implementation of the obligations of UNSCR 1540 reduces the vulnerabilities that terrorists and other criminals could exploit to acquire weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. As it legally binds all States to take such actions, it has a place as one of the fundamental international instruments in the fight against WMD terrorism. Allow me to explain what the OSCE Secretariat together with the UN Secretariat, 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as with other partners has been doing in assisting OSCE participating States in implementation of UNSCR 1540

in the areas of nonproliferation and terrorism defined as strategic priorities at the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Council.

### **Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 – OSCE Project**

In 2010, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre established a project in support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540. The 1540 project's contributions to the regional and global efforts to facilitate implementation of the resolution are focused on developing practical activities as well as strengthening the OSCE expertise and capacities in promoting full implementation of UNSCR 1540, as part of the joint international community efforts. Now, concretely under practical activities – the OSCE Secretariat has assisted more than a dozen of its participating States in the development of their National Action Plans on UNSCR 1540, a voluntary, yet practical tool, in order to map out countries' priorities that will lead towards comprehensive national implementation of the Resolution.

And one of the main objectives of this assistance to the interested OSCE participating States is to ensure synergies with other relevant actors, like the UNODA and EU, under the overarching lead of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

UNODA has been a strong partner of the OSCE in carrying out the invaluable assistance to our participating States. The OSCE has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA, and our joint partnership on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has proven to be a great practical advocate for co-operation with regional organizations as encouraged under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1977 (2011).

The EU Centers of Excellence closely mirror this type of activity. Through our practical activities, we are now strengthening the co-operation between OSCE activities on UNSCR 1540, and EU CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Centres of Excellence Initiative, jointly implemented by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). We will all benefit from our co-operation - not only by making the desired progress in the countries, but most importantly our participating States will benefit from an effective and holistic assistance in countering WMD/CBRN threats.

If you find this a valuable reflection, I believe we should look at what it really means to draw on regional approaches. What I think stands out is that we all support cooperation and collaboration but the resourcing to empower staffing and programmatic activity is something very difficult to agree upon, on a sustained approach, within any organization.



## Wrapping Up & Thinking Ahead

International, regional and sub-regional organizations have an important role in UN endeavors to deal with global threats to peace and security, including those of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for terrorist purposes. In the context of a division of labor strategy, functional IGOs (i.e., IAEA for example) can provide guidelines, standards, and technical assistance programmes that States can implement in accordance with their national circumstances, while regional and subregional organizations play a politically supportive role by bringing to the attention of their member States the urgency of implementation of CT resolutions such as UNSCR 1540 (2004).

Chapter VIII of the UN Charter supports the role of regional organizations in international peace and security. Regional and sub-regional organizations enjoy the support of their members with whom they may have closer ties than with global institutions. They are also aware of problems of the States of their region and specificities of the political and economic situations.

Last, as someone who has placed a foot in both the nonproliferation community and now the broader counterterrorism community, when cooperating with regional and subregional organizations, it is even more clear we have to consider the priorities of development, economic and security issues in an integrated or holistic approach. Undertaking measures to fulfill aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) can be complementary to efforts dealing with other priority development issues, including post-conflict reconstruction, and with regional security risks and threats, e.g., illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and crime. As an example, strengthening border and customs controls and measures against money laundering contribute to development and security goals as well as to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

**In conclusion**, I would like to say that our efforts are driven by the conviction that regional and sub-regional organizations are instrumental as force multipliers and delivery mechanisms for counter-terrorism and nonproliferation assistance. I appreciate your time. Thank you.