Summary

In 2012, the OSCE has continued to contribute to international efforts in preventing terrorists from acquiring and using Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and related activities. The OSCE, through the establishment of the four-year extra-budgetary project within the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, has also continued assisting participating States with the implementation of UNSCR 1540, particularly by assisting with the development of voluntary national implementation action plans of interested participating States. Furthermore, the recently adopted Permanent Council Decision 1063, on OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight Against Terrorism, provides that OSCE will pursue activities to prevent the illicit movement of weapons and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

Promoting implementation of UNSCR 1540

The Forum for Security Co-operation has been mandated by 2009 Athens Ministerial Council Decision No 16/09 to facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004). In addition, in 2011, Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No 8/11 on Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540, tasks the relevant decision-making bodies within their mandates to continue to identify and strengthen the specific forms of the OSCE’s contribution to assist participating States, upon their request, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the 1540 Committee.

In line with the above, the OSCE with its 57 participating States, in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee, its Group of Experts and other relevant international/regional organizations including the UNODA, has identified existing gaps in the implementation process of UNSCR 1540, emphasizing the added value of a regional approach in this regard.

Since 2010, a four-year extra-budgetary project to support Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 has been established within the OSCE Secretariat’s Conflict Prevention Centre in order to strengthen the OSCE expertise and capacities. The main objectives of this project lie in translating the political tasking to promote implementation of UNSCR 1540 into concrete assistance activities, including assistance in development of National Action Plans of interested participating States.

The OSCE Secretariat’s Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit also supports the objectives of UNSCR 1540 through two of its programmes: the programme on promoting the international legal framework against terrorism and cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and the programme promoting container and supply chain security.

The first programme contributes to the dissemination of best practices and sharing of information among prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials on international judicial and legal co-operation tools related to combating terrorism.
The second programme facilitates technical assistance and awareness raising efforts in the field of container security, in support of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other relevant international organizations.

The OSCE Secretariat and UNODA have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding, in 2011, on Joint Implementation of Projects on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Means of Delivery, in response to OSCE participating States’ requests. Within this framework, the two organizations coordinate their efforts to assist OSCE participating States, upon their request, in developing their legislative framework and technical capabilities.