UNODA Announcement

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION


NEW YORK/VIENNA, 24 October 2011 (Office for Disarmament Affairs) — The United Nations and the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint implementation of projects on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The MoU aims at increasing technical cooperation in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) which calls for comprehensive measures to prevent proliferation by non-State actors of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In this regard, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) will work closely with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre to carry out the terms of the MoU.

Under the Memorandum, capacity building and assistance facilitation, regional and country specific events will be organized and held in response to OSCE participating States’ requests. In this area, UNODA and OSCE recently organized a first joint regional workshop for Central Asian States on the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 27 to 29 September 2011.

The signature of the Memorandum follows the Meeting of International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations on Cooperation in Promoting the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The meeting was hosted by the Government of Austria and organized in cooperation with UNODA in Vienna in December 2010. The Memorandum is the first agreement between the Secretariats of organizations which participated in this meeting. It is also a further practical step within the framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and OSCE of activities of common interest established in 1993.

In its Resolution 1977 adopted on 20 April 2011, the UN Security Council stressed the need for enhancing collaboration between the 1540 Committee and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in assisting States to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

For further information, contact Mr. Nikita Smidovich (Smidovich@un.org)