



Dr. Zverzhanovski's speech at the opening of the Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the UN SC resolution 1540

It is a pleasure to be here today and to take part in the discussions on the implementation of the UNSCR 1540.

Preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery is one of the central pillars of maintaining security in today's world. As such, this workshop provides a welcome opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss means to further the implementation of the Resolution 1540. I would like to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Serbia for its readiness to host us here today. Serbia is factor of security and stability in the SEE and this workshop is another example of this dedication.

This workshop is, in our view, even more significant due to its regional dimension. It is our deep felt belief that promoting security and stability in South East Europe and beyond can best be achieved through regional cooperation. This is why UNDP is proud to support such as SEESAC, a regional initiative whose mission is to *work on strengthening safety and security in South East Europe through Regional Cooperation*.

As a regional initiative, SEESAC promotes a response to security challenges through exchange of knowledge and information, harmonized legislation and coordinated action, all of which are critical for the timely and effective reaction of enforcement, first responders and finally judiciary.

At the same time, for the past 8 years we have worked closely with all national authorities in SEE on strengthening arms export control standards, encouraging legislative harmonization with the UN and EU standards, striving to include all national relevant institutions to work in concert and encouraging regional exchange of experiences and best practices.

We believe that our joint efforts should take a holistic approach. The implementation of all our activities should result in the promotion of a culture of safety and security, from prevention (preparedness, risk mitigation) to consequence or post-crisis management. Only a complete approach will lead to security which is a condition for stability and ultimately sustainable development.



Towards that end it is essential that our approach is not limited in addressing criminal aspects and activities such as terrorism and proliferation by state and non-state actors, but that our activities encompass also accidental and natural risks related to CBRN materials and agents.

With this goal in mind, it is of utmost importance to coordinate our knowledge and resources in strengthening the capacities of national and regional authorities and international organizations in working together across national boundaries to mitigate risks and threats from CBRN materials or agents and to improve preparedness.

It is vital that we continue to:

- Encourage and assist our national counterparts in harmonizing national legislation with international standards and best practices.
- Maintain momentum in providing adequate training and exchange of experiences for specialists from law enforcement and judiciary.
- Monitor due implementation of legislation and assess means necessary for implementation and appropriateness of both technical and human resources of specialized institutions designated for those tasks.

Let me end by saying that we particularly look forward to the results of the workshop and hope that what we expect will be a lively and fruitful discussion will lead to some very concrete proposals on how to further strengthen regional cooperation on the implementation of UNSCR 1540.