

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-PROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS: THE OPCW AS AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**JAHORINA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 22-23 JUNE 2009**

Concluding Plenary Session – Seminar's Outcomes

1. Implementing the requirements to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, equipment and technologies, and if needed to manage the consequences of their use, is a complex undertaking. States are called upon to take a range of actions under international regimes and treaties, Security Council resolutions and other arrangements. Such steps may include, for example, the enactment of legislation and the adoption of regulatory and administrative implementation measures, the development of capacity in the form of infrastructure, expertise, procedures and resource allocation, and the commitment to ensure that these measures will be applied in a sustainable manner.
2. This seminar looked at the CWC and the OPCW as examples for how national implementation measures can be developed and successfully put into action, and how assistance towards these goals can be rendered in an effective manner to countries that need it. At the same time, there were enlightening discussions about similar efforts by other organisations that assist countries in developing national implementation capacities in other areas of WMD non-proliferation and counter-terrorism.
3. At the national level, this broad spectrum of requirements and measures calls for a holistic approach in the formulation of policies and strategies, and effective coordination between the different actors involved. This is not only a matter of intra-governmental coordination (which is essential, if sometimes difficult), but also of outreach to and involvement of other stakeholders, including industry, academia and civic society.
4. At the regional level, cooperation between countries is essential so as to ensure that the measures adopted by one country match those adopted by its neighbours; that the potential for regional synergism of non-proliferation systems is exploited to the full and that no implementation gaps are left exposed. In the context of the Western Balkans region, the issue of effective implementation of WMD non-proliferation objectives and policies also relates to stabilisation and association agreements with the EU.
5. At the international level, a multitude of actors (States; the UN and its institutions and specialised agencies; treaty-based organisations/arrangements such as the OPCW and the ISU; other intergovernmental organisations; international organisations such as the ICRC; as well as NGOs such as VERTIC or sipri) are active in promoting the implementation of non-proliferation goals, as applicable within their broader mandates of disarmament, non-proliferation and international cooperation and assistance. A multitude of actors are offering support in the adoption of non-proliferation measures to States seeking advice and assistance. In addition, a

productive dialogue has evolved between these international and national bodies and representatives of academia (in the form of international science unions and academies, for example) and industry (in the form of trade associations and even individual companies).

6. A pertinent example is the OPCW, who after its First Review Conference put into motion an Action Plan to foster national implementation of the CWC. These efforts are continuing also after the Second Review Conference, so as to ensure full and effective implementation of all CWC requirements by all States Parties. Furthermore, the steps taken by the OPCW and other international agencies in response to the terror attacks against the United States in 2001 have demonstrated that international organisations, within their mandates and based on their technical competencies, can contribute effectively to mitigating the threats of WMD being acquired and used by non-State actors.
7. UN Security Council Resolutions (in particular Resolutions 1373(2001), 1540 (2004) and 1810 (2008)) have further developed the scope of State responsibility to counter terrorism and prevent and deter WMD proliferation. They have also stressed the urgency to make effective preparations for managing the consequences of any use of WMD by non-State actors. They reminded States of the urgency of adopting measures to implement the various international instruments aimed at countering the threat of terrorism, as well of their obligations under the existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. They furthermore reiterated the responsibilities of international organisations to contribute to preventing WMD acquisition and use by non-State actors.
8. This wide range of initiatives and actors calls for close coordination and effective cooperation: a move away from the all-too-familiar “patchwork approach” solely driven by institutional mandates and agendas. It calls instead for a more integrated, holistic and competency-based approach towards WMD non-proliferation. That such integrated and coordinated approaches can work, despite legal, structural, institutional and political constraints, has been shown in other areas of international action, for example in the field of humanitarian assistance.
9. At the national level, a holistic and integrated approach to WMD non-proliferation will be essential, in particular for countries with limited resources and capacity. Assistance offered by external actors, however well-meaning, will only in the long run be effective if properly coordinated and well-tailored to the actual needs. Otherwise, there is the risk of institutional overload, confusion and perhaps even loss of priority and overall direction.
10. The seminar participants learned a lot about the activities undertaken by the OPCW as well as other organisations to assist States with meeting their obligations in the field of WMD non-proliferation. They also learned much about the efforts undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina and other States in the region to put into place effective measures to counter terrorism and WMD proliferation. Much work has already been done and accomplished, but more remains yet to be done.
11. During the discussions, a proposal was brought forward for a project that intends to address these issues in the context of the Western Balkans region. The project

attempts to develop a more integrated, holistic approach towards WMD non-proliferation implementation and counter-terrorism. Bosnia and Herzegovina would take the lead and act as a pilot country, but the methodologies and approaches so developed would be evaluated also for their utility in a wider regional context, and potentially also for other regions. Specific measures to develop a coherent, effective and sustainable national strategy to counter WMD proliferation and terrorism, in line with international obligations, would be developed and implemented in partnership with all the organisations and agencies that are working towards effective national implementation in their respective fields of responsibility and competence. At the same time, countries of the region would be involved closely in a parallel, fully-transparent, process of discussion of approaches and practical results, information exchange and experience-sharing. The project aims at identifying and sharing “best practices” and will thus contribute to regional cooperation. It will at the same time help international agencies to better coordinate their implementation support and assistance activities.

12. This proposed project was the most tangible outcome of the workshop – it responds to the needs of the host country and found the support of the other countries of the region present, as well as of the various international organisations that attended the seminar. It was agreed to further pursue this project as a practical follow-up to the seminar, and to engage with all countries of the region as well as external partners, including potential donor countries.