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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 974th MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

5 May 2021

On the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union and its Member States thank the speakers for the quality of their presentations to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We appreciate the opportunity to consider together the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The 2019 Ministerial Council in Bratislava offered an opportunity to recall our commitment to the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. In the declaration commemorating the 25th and 15th anniversaries of the aforementioned documents, we collectively recognized their complete relevance today and reaffirmed the commitment of the OSCE and its participating States to the full and comprehensive application of the principles contained in them. The European Union reiterates its position in favour of the promotion of meaningful and equal participation by women in the pursuit of peace and security, including in the area of non-proliferation.

Beyond this declaration, the European Union and its Member States reiterate their support for and commitment to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and all resolutions reaffirming it, in particular resolution 2325 (2016), the most recent, and resolution 1887 (2009), which are cornerstones of the non-proliferation regime and in line with the principles of co-operation and comprehensive security on which the OSCE is based. We encourage the universalization of international non-proliferation treaties. At the same time, we reiterate our deep concern at the threats to the non-proliferation regimes today and the need to step up international co-operation in this area. The prospect of terrorist groups acquiring WMD makes this co-operation in combating terrorism even more imperative than ever.

The European Union and its Member States reaffirm their full commitment to and support for the work of the 1540 Committee and for the practical and effective implementation of these resolutions. We adopted a decision in May 2017 to provide 2.6 million euros to support the activities for implementing resolution 1540.

The COVID-19 health crisis has obliged us to adapt the timetable for the review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 and the renewal of the mandate of the 1540 Committee. The new work programme is currently being adopted in New York following the adoption of resolution 2572 extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee until 28 February 2022. This arrangement offers an opportunity for

identifying the progress achieved since 2016, the thrusts in the work and the new challenges to be faced. In that regard, the European Union continues to support the elaboration of best practice guides for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, as announced by the Tajik FSC Chairmanship. It could make a substantial contribution to the comprehensive review of this resolution by the OSCE in 2021.

It is essential that resolution 1540 be implemented in full. All the Member States of the European Union have submitted implementation reports to the 1540 Committee, and several of them have elaborated national action plans that are periodically updated. We support the involvement of the OSCE in specific projects. For example, the Organization is providing assistance in the joint effort to eliminate hazardous chemical weapons in the OSCE area and is developing practical activities, such as the provision of assistance to requesting participating States in elaborating reports and national action plans, drafting national legislation, promoting best practices and fostering the exchange of information on the implementation of resolution 1540.

As a forum for dialogue, the FSC has its own resources for supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. Some measures have already been taken, such as the OSCE Points of Contact, which are an integral part of the 1540 Committee network and meet annually. We also applaud the example of a number of participating States that, in a spirit of transparency, publish and update their implementation reports. We urge that their efforts be continued, particularly with regard to the implementation of international sanctions against proliferating States.

Finally, we should like to thank the Armenian FSC Chairmanship for providing us the opportunity today to discuss the non-proliferation of WMD.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, Serbia^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} and Albania^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.