

OPCW Side Event

Development and implementation of the Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program (ICSSP) in Ukraine

The Hague, 30 November 2015, World Forum Convention Center (WFCC) - Antarctica Room
14.10 to 14:45

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The ICSSP as a leading program to enhance national and international security of Ukraine and UNSCR 1540 implementation

I thank you for the organization of the event on the integrated program for chemical safety and security in Ukraine (ICSSP) within the premises of the OPCW. The OPCW as an international platform for cooperation among governments, chemical industries, academia, international organizations and civil society, is a perfect place to assist countries to reduce chemical threats and enhance chemical safety and security.

The threat of use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons and their proliferation represent a growing risk to States and their populations. The OSCE participating States recognized this threat and adopted an active stance against proliferation and in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Within this context, the OSCE has become one of the most active regional organizations in assisting its participating States with implementation of the UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), as well as directly supporting the 1540 Committee with its mandate.

Apart from supporting the global efforts of the 1540 Committee, the ongoing project activities on UNSCR 1540 at the OSCE include assistance to participating States with assessment and gap analysis of their implementation measures, also through development of national implementation action plans; promote experience sharing on national progress and lessons learned as well as develop effective practices on the implementation of the resolution at the regional level.

The OSCE strengthens the cooperation with the international organizations, including the OPCW, in the field of non-proliferation of WMD/CBRN materials. The cooperation with the OPCW has also been strengthened over the years, following regular OPCW participation in the OSCE activities. The OSCE is a beneficiary to several programs financed mainly by the European Union and OSCE Members.

Bearing in mind the ongoing contacts and cooperation with the OPCW, and to further streamline and reinforce the OSCE and OPCW cooperation against threats of proliferation and misuse of chemicals, OSCE would like to bring to your attention an ongoing project activity in Ukraine on **Chemical Safety and Security**, under the umbrella of UNSCR 1540. The Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program (ICSSP) in Ukraine. ICSSP has become a leading international program to assist Ukraine in reducing growing chemical threats. The ICSSP would introduce prevention measures against possible attacks on chemical installations and improve, as a first priority, the controls of movement transboundary and in-country movement of chemicals, what serves the non-proliferation and anti-terrorism objectives.

ICSSP effective implementation would be very beneficiary in improving national and regional security. It would open new venues for international cooperative programs within the Eastern Partnership to assist in peaceful uses of chemistry and improve non-proliferation standards.

Currently, the first stage of the project is underway to develop a **National Comprehensive Review of Chemical Safety and Security in Ukraine**, together with the Ukrainian Union of Chemists and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Poland (ICCSS), with support of the Ukrainian and Polish governments. In addition, the Review focuses on areas of chemical safety and security directly in line with Ukraine integration efforts, such as promotion of preventive measures, legislative and regulatory basis, prevention of major accident hazards, management of toxic chemicals, and exchange of good practices and research in this area, among others. The final report is envisioned by end of November 2015, and subsequent follow-up project activities on chemical safety and security are anticipated.

The OSCE appreciates an ongoing interest of the OPCW in the integrated program what was confirmed by the participation in the international meetings devoted to its development. We hope to establish a partnership with the OPCW and other relevant international organizations to build a strong international component for the ICSSP implementation. There is much need for the financial support and specialized knowledge and expertise needed to build an effective system of chemical safety and security in Ukraine, a core purposes of the ICSSP. We hope the international community, including the OPCW will actively join these efforts.

The International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Poland (ICCSS), which is one of the initiators and leaders of the ICSSP, together with the Ukraine Chemists Union, UNODA and OSCE, was invited to serve as the international coordinator of the program. Amb. Krzysztof Paturej, head of the ICCSS, leads, upon the request of the OSCE, the international coordination efforts within the ICSSP.

The OSCE seeks financial support for the implementation of the concrete projects developed within ICSSP. They include the comprehensive review/gap analysis of chemical safety and security in Ukraine, which was initiated thanks to partial funding from Italy. A second project refers to enhancement of chemical safety and security in the transboundary and in-country movement of chemicals. A third project aims at introducing a program of local awareness and responsibility in chemical safety and security to improve chemical safety and security at the local level, including at Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's). The fourth program refers to implementation of the UNSCR 1540 in the chemical domain in Ukraine.

We hope the OPCW community will provide material and technical support to enhance chemical safety and security and protect critical infrastructure in Ukraine. Let me finish by reiterating a kind appeal to the OPCW to join these efforts and provide support to implement these projects within the Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program (ICSSP) in Ukraine.