



**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA SUISSE  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**Seul le texte prononcé fait foi**

**Réunion du Conseil de sécurité  
sur le thème**

***"Non-prolifération des armes de destruction massive"***

**Déclaration**

**de**

**S.E. M. Jenő C.A. Staehelin  
Représentant permanent de la Suisse  
auprès des Nations Unies**

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**Meeting of the Security Council  
on**

***"Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"***

**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Jenő C.A. Staehelin  
Permanent Representative of Switzerland  
to the United Nations**

**New York, 22 April 2004**

**Unofficial translation**

Mr President,

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the risk that non-state actors, in particular terrorist groups, could gain access to them is one of the most serious threats today. Switzerland considers that there is an urgent need to contain this threat which concerns the whole international community.

In principle, obligations of a legislative nature, such as those foreseen in the draft resolution under discussion, should be established through multilateral treaties with participation possible for all states. A legislative role by the Security Council is only acceptable in exceptional circumstances and in response to a particular urgent need. As the resolution under discussion contains obligations relevant for all member states, it must be drafted with the greatest possible transparency. It is this concern for transparency that has led Switzerland to support the request for an open debate.

Given the nature and the scope of this resolution, the planned measures should be understood as a provisional regime and thus be reviewed after a certain time in light of the experiences made. Moreover, there should be from the start maximum clarity regarding the scope of the obligations imposed on member states. In this respect, Switzerland is of the opinion that a number of elements in the draft resolution are not sufficiently precise. This is the case, for example in OP2 of the draft resolution, where reference is made to "appropriate effective laws".

Monitoring the implementation of the resolution must also be clearly defined. In our view, the fact that the resolution is based on Chapter VII of the Charter cannot be understood as a pre-authorisation for states to resort to unilateral sanctions. In other words, the monitoring of the implementation must be carried out within a multilateral framework. In this respect, Switzerland welcomes the establishment of a committee of the Security Council, as provided for in OP9 of the draft resolution. However, it is important that the committee and the Security Council work in close collaboration with the existing competent organisations in this field (IAEA, OPCW). Moreover, it should be examined whether the subject matter dealt with in the resolution should not – at least in the medium term – be contained in an international instrument that would be developed in a wider circle. This would allow all interested states to participate on an equal footing in the definition and monitoring of this non-proliferation regime.

In the future, efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction must also focus more closely on strengthening verification procedures and instruments. It would therefore be welcomed if this aspect were given greater consideration in the draft resolution.

Finally, Switzerland welcomes the fact that the preambular part of the draft resolution explicitly reminds member states of their obligations concerning arms control and disarmament. In our view, this aspect would merit even greater attention. The long-term aim is and must remain the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

To achieve this objective, all states must fully meet their obligations that are contained in the relevant conventions.

Thank you, Mr President.