

**MTCR Chair's Statement on the
Plenary Meeting of the Missile Technology Control Regime
Berlin, Germany
24-26 October 2012**

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) held its 26th Plenary Meeting in Berlin from 24 to 26 October 2012 in order to review its activities and to further intensify its efforts to prevent missile proliferation. It was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany. Ambassador Jörg Ranau of Germany's Federal Foreign Office was confirmed as Chair of the MTCR until the next Plenary.

The meeting marked the 25th Anniversary of the Regime, established in 1987, which has the aim of countering the proliferation of missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction (WMD). On this occasion MTCR Partners issued a special press release.

MTCR Partners discussed proliferation of means of delivery of WMD that constitutes a threat to international peace and security and reaffirmed the importance of addressing this challenge and the role the MTCR serves in this regard. The MTCR Guidelines and the list of controlled items in the MTCR Annex, which includes key equipment, materials, software and technology needed for missile development, production and operation, constitute the international export control standard to prevent missile proliferation.

Partners shared information and evaluations on recent developments in missile proliferation-related activities worldwide. Special emphasis was placed on rapid technological change, the role of intangible technology transfers, including through access to sensitive scientific knowledge, catch-all controls, brokering, transit and transshipment. In this context, they expressed concern about proliferators' efforts to exploit these phenomena.

Partners reviewed and exchanged views on several key aspects of the internal proceedings of the MTCR, especially issues related to future membership. Individual applications for membership were discussed, with no consensus being reached on the admission of new members at this time. Future memberships will continue to be discussed.

Partners agreed to continue exchanging information on missile program developments and expressed their appreciation for the work of the three experts groups which met in advance of the Plenary: the Licensing and Enforcement Experts Meeting (LEEM), the Information Exchange Meeting (IEM) and the Technical Experts Meeting (TEM).

Partners reaffirmed the critical importance of the work in the experts groups. They noted the rapid evolution of relevant technologies and procurement practices of potential proliferators and the need to devise measures to address these developments. Partners welcomed the decisions adopted on amendments to the Equipment, Software and Technology Annex. Partners also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation and information sharing within the context of the MTCR, noting the usefulness of the information, analysis and experiences shared during the meetings.

Many Partners exchanged information on concerns about the ongoing missile programs in Middle East, Northeast Asia and South Asia, including Iran and North Korea, which could contribute to regional instability and supply missile proliferation activities elsewhere.

Many Partners noted the direct relevance of UN Security Council Resolutions, inter alia, 1874 and 1929, to MTCR export controls and expressed their determination to implement these resolutions and to exercise vigilance and prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods and technology that could contribute to WMD missile programs of proliferation concern, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law.

Partners reaffirmed their willingness to continue their individual and collective efforts to assist interested countries in implementing the missile-related export controls mandated under UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and to maintain cooperation with the 1540 Committee.

Building upon the activities of the outgoing Chair (Argentina), the incoming Chair intends to continue to hold outreach meetings with additional Non-Partners in order to increase transparency about the Regime and promote its objectives. Partners agreed to strengthen their efforts individually and through outreach activities of the Chair to encourage and assist Non-Partner countries in applying MTCR guidelines and control lists to promote non-proliferation. Partners welcomed that Non-Partners increasingly adopt MTCR standards.

Partners acknowledged the contribution which the Fifth Berlin Export Control Seminar in June 2012, hosted by Germany, made in order to increase the awareness of the Regime's activities.

Partners welcomed the offers by Italy and Norway to host the next two MTCR Plenary Meetings in 2013 and 2014, respectively, and to serve as Chairs of the Regime for the subsequent two terms of office.

Further information on the MTCR can be found at www.mtcr.info.

The MTCR has 34 members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.