

Press statement released under the responsibility of the chair.

Participants in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) met in Paris on 3rd and 4th September under French chairmanship. This informal meeting was the third of its kind, after Madrid on 12 June and Brisbane (Australia) on 9-10 July. Representatives of 11 countries took part : Germany, Australia, Spain, United States, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

The PSI is an initiative to develop political commitments and practical cooperation to help impede and stop the flow of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials to and from states and non State actors of proliferation concern. It is a dynamic process.

Participants affirmed that the PSI is consistent with and a step in the implementation of the UN Security Council Presidential statement of 31 January 1992, which states that the proliferation of all WMD constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and underlines the need to prevent proliferation. It is also in line with the Kananaskis and Evian G8 Summit declarations as well as recent EU statements, establishing that more coherent and concerted efforts are needed to prevent the proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials.

They pointed out that this initiative is consistent with international law, as well as national legal authorities. The Chair recalled the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

It is part of the overall effort in support of non proliferation which is a pillar of collective security and strategic stability. It can contribute among other tools to the full implementation of and compliance with commitments under this regime, in particular non proliferation agreements.

It can also help to reduce the risk of WMD falling into the hands of terrorists.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment not to play any role themselves in proliferation activities and to take effective measures, either individually or in cooperation with partners, to stop them.

Participants reviewed a broad range of political, legal, practical, technical and operational aspects, with a view to paving the way for early concrete outcomes.

They agreed on a " Statement of interdiction principles ". It is released today in a spirit of transparency. The " statement of interdiction principles " identifies concrete actions to collectively or individually interdict shipments of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials.

Participants expressed the hope that all countries which share their non proliferation concerns and objectives, in particular coastal and transshipment States, flag States and other partners in the international community, will support this initiative.

They expressed their willingness to engage in outreach activities, by rapidly opening dialogue with other countries and seeking their views and comments. They stand ready to review and take into account inputs which would enhance their proposed efforts.

Participants also considered practical steps to improve and enhance interdiction activities, including sharing of information among partners, and confirmed the organisation of maritime, air and ground interdiction training exercises in the coming months, aimed at enhancing existing capabilities and testing the conditions for implementation of the PSI.

They decided to meet again in October in London to review the progress of the initiative./.