

PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR), Busan, 21st October 2016

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) held its 30th Plenary week in Busan from 17th to 21st October 2016. Acting Foreign Minister Lim Sungham welcomed participants at the opening of the meeting. The Plenary was chaired by Mr. Ham Sang-wook, Director General for Nonproliferation and Nuclear Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, who will remain the Chair of the MTCR until the next Plenary Meeting scheduled for 2017.

MTCR Partners warmly welcomed India as a new member to its first Plenary Meeting.

The main purpose of the Plenary Meeting was to review and evaluate the MTCR's activities over the last 12 months and to intensify the efforts of Partners to prevent the proliferation of unmanned delivery systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Partners recalled that the proliferation of WMD (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) and their means of delivery remains a threat to international peace and security, as recognized in UN Security Council Resolution 1540. They reiterated their commitment to limit the risks of proliferation by controlling international transfers that can contribute to delivery systems for WMD. They held a thorough exchange of information on missile proliferation developments since the last Plenary Meeting in Rotterdam.

Partners welcomed that the MTCR Guidelines and control lists in the Annex constitute an international best practices benchmark for controlling exports of missile-related items and technologies, and noted that these standards are increasingly adhered to by non-Partners and are included in some UN Security Council resolutions.

Partners called on all states to exercise extreme vigilance to prevent the transfer of goods and technology which could contribute to WMD missile programs, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law. They confirmed their commitment to inform and assist interested parties that are supportive of the MTCR's objectives and purposes.

In the interest of regional and international security, Partners appealed to all states to support the non-proliferation aims of the Regime by observing its Guidelines and establishing appropriate national legislation and law enforcement mechanisms. Partners emphasized that observance of the MTCR Guidelines by as many states as possible will contribute substantially to limiting the risks of proliferation of delivery systems for WMD and to fostering international security. Partners welcomed the fact that Estonia and Latvia have declared, since the Oslo Plenary, their adherence to the MTCR Guidelines as a basis for their national export controls concerning missile technology. Partners invited other states to also declare, on a voluntary basis, adherence to the MTCR Guidelines and formally notify the MTCR Point of Contact in writing of their political commitment to control all

of the items on the MTCR Annex according to the MTCR Guidelines, including any subsequent changes to the Annex/Guidelines.

Partners underlined that the MTCR Guidelines are not designed to impede technological advancement and development, including space programs, as long as such activities could not contribute to delivery systems for WMD.

Partners also encouraged relevant regional bodies and institutions to give attention to the role of export controls in preventing the proliferation of missiles capable of carrying WMD.

Partners expressed concern associated with global missile proliferation activities in particular regarding ongoing missile programs in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, and South Asia, which might fuel missile proliferation activities elsewhere. Within the framework of the MTCR mandate, Partners conducted extensive discussions on various country issues including the DPRK and Iran. With regard to the former, they confirmed their commitment to faithfully implement UN Security Council resolutions 1695, 1718, 1874, 2087, 2094, and 2270, having in mind the ballistic missile-related provisions of the resolutions. In particular, they confirmed their firm commitment to exercise extreme vigilance when controlling transfers that could contribute to the DPRK's ballistic missile program, in response to the drastic escalation of ballistic missile launches by the DPRK since February 2016. With regard to the latter, welcoming the process of implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) endorsed by UN Security Council resolution 2231, Partners confirmed their commitment to implement this resolution, having in mind the ballistic missile-related provisions in Annex B of this resolution. Partners agreed to continue exchanging views on missile program developments.

Partners expressed appreciation for the outreach activities conducted by the outgoing MTCR Chairman Ambassador Piet de Klerk of the joint chairmanship of the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The new MTCR Chair was encouraged to follow up and conduct further outreach activities and contacts in order to increase transparency about the Regime, to promote its objectives and to maintain the momentum of dialogue with the visited countries. Partners also encouraged the continuation of individual, collective and regional efforts to assist non-Partner states and other interested parties in implementing missile-related export controls as required under UNSCR 1540, and to inform the Chair about these activities.

Partners reaffirmed the critical importance of the MTCR's on-going technical work. They underlined that the rapid technological development and changes in proliferant procurement practices related to sensitive items and technologies continue to require great awareness and effective actions to address these developments. They recognised that the Equipment, Software, and Technology Annex is a cornerstone of the work done by the MTCR to prevent missile proliferation and expressed deep appreciation for the accomplishments of the MTCR's Technical Experts Meeting (TEM).

Partners also expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the MTCR's Licensing and Enforcement Experts Meeting (LEEM), and the Information Exchange Meeting (IEM). In the IEM and

LEEM, Partners continued discussions on a number of issues, including proliferation trends, procurement activities and strategies in support of programs for WMD delivery means; serious risks and challenges posed by intangible technology transfers (ITT); key technology trends in missile programs; catch-all controls for non-listed items; and brokering, transit and transshipment issues, and efforts to exploit them to evade export controls. These discussions showed that constant awareness; sharing of information, including best practices; and updating of MTCR countries' export control systems and enforcement efforts are of great importance and have a significant impact on their work aimed at curbing proliferation of WMD means of delivery.

In the IEM-LEEM-TEM joint meeting, Partners shared the view that additive manufacturing (AM) or 3D-printing technology poses a major challenge to international export control efforts. They agreed to keep this topic on future agendas.

Partners exchanged views on issues relating to future membership. Individual applications for membership were thoroughly discussed. The membership issue will continue to be on the agenda.

Partners reviewed a number of issues relating to the internal operation of the MTCR, including the continuity and effectiveness of its Chairmanship. They warmly welcomed and approved the offer of a joint MTCR Chairmanship by Ireland and Iceland in 2017-2018.

Partners welcomed the improved MTCR website (www.mtc.info) through the efforts by Canada and the outgoing Joint Chairmanship of the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The MTCR has 35 members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, 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.