

18TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBING STATES  
TO THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST  
BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

PRESS RELEASE BY HCoC SUBSCRIBING STATES

The eighteenth Annual Regular Meeting of the Subscribing States to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) took place in Vienna, with the participation of 74 registered delegations, from June 3 to 4, 2019.

The participants reaffirmed the importance of the Code as a unique multilateral confidence building and transparency instrument against ballistic missile proliferation, which contributes to the process of strengthening existing national and international security arrangements and disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and mechanisms.

Sweden, as outgoing Chair of the HCoC, outlined the efforts made during the last year to enhance the universalization of the HCoC, to enhance its implementation by Subscribing States, and to raise awareness of the Code.

Norway, on assuming the Chairmanship for 2019-2020, introduced the objectives of its presidency for the year. The main objectives are the universalization of the Code and its full implementation in order to enhance its multinational confidence building ability.

The Subscribing States decided that Switzerland will take over the Chairmanship from Norway at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regular Meeting in 2020.

Currently, 140 States have subscribed to the Code. Subscribing States appreciated the outreach activities conducted on behalf of the HCoC.

Togo's subscription to the Code shortly before the Meeting, as the 140<sup>th</sup> Subscribing State was welcomed, and seen as a good example for the process of universalization.

The Subscribing States stressed the ongoing need to prevent and curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to encourage new subscriptions to the Hague Code of Conduct, particularly by countries with space launch vehicle and ballistic missile capabilities.

The Subscribing States reaffirmed the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which constitutes a serious concern of the international community, in various regions of the world. The Subscribing States discussed developments in the DPRK missile programme since the 2018 HCoC regular meeting in the context of relevant UNSC resolutions.

The Subscribing States stressed the importance of achieving full implementation of the Code, in particular with regard to the timely submission of pre-launch notifications and annual declarations.

The Subscribing States also reaffirmed the right to exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes as provided for in the Outer Space Treaty. The need to exercise the necessary vigilance in the consideration of assistance to Space Launch Vehicle programmes so as to not contribute to, support or assist any ballistic missile programme in countries in contravention of international norms and obligations, as is provided for in the Code, was also emphasized.

The Subscribing States agreed to continue efforts to universalise the Code, which remains of paramount importance. The high number of 171 votes in favour of the biennial UN General Assembly Resolution on HCOC adopted at its 73<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2018 was welcomed by the Subscribing States.

**For more information on the HCoC go to: <http://www.hcoc.at>**