

**12TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBING STATES TO
THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST
BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION**

PRESS RELEASE BY HCOG SUBSCRIBING STATES

The twelfth 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 65 registered delegations, from May 30 to May 31, 2013.

The participants recognized the importance of the Code as a unique multilateral confidence building and transparency instrument, which was also underscored in the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Code.

The Republic of Korea, as outgoing Chair of the HCOG, outlined the efforts made during the last year to promote the universalization of the HCoC and to reinforce its implementation by Subscribing States. Japan, elected during the last plenary meeting as Chair for 2013-2014, introduced the objectives of its presidency for the next year: the full and comprehensive implementation of the Code in all its aspects, and strengthening outreach activities for advancing the process of HCoC universalization.

Currently, 134 States have subscribed to the Code. Subscribing States appreciated the outreach activities conducted by the outgoing Chair as well as by interested Subscribing States and the European Union, inter alia to mark the 10th anniversary of the Code.

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 an ongoing concern of the international community in some regions. In this regard the DPRK launch of 12 December 2012 using ballistic missile technology, which was duly reacted to by the UN Security Council in its resolution 2087(2013), was noted. In this context, they considered encouraging new subscriptions to the Hague Code of Conduct especially in these regions.

The Subscribing States reiterated the importance of UN General Assembly Resolution 67/42 in support of the HCoC and welcomed its adoption by 162 UN Member States at the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly. This shows the potential for the universalization of the Code, which the Subscribing States will continue to support.

The Subscribing States stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Code, in particular with regard to Pre-Launch-Notifications and the timely submission of Annual Declarations.

Note to the Press: Further background and documentation on the HCoC can be obtained from www.hcoc.at.