

14TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBING STATES TO
THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST
BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION
PRESS RELEASE BY HCoC SUBSCRIBING STATES

The fourteenth 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 63 registered delegations, from May 28 to May 29, 2015.

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

Peru, as outgoing Chair of the HCoC, outlined the efforts made during the last year to enhance the universalization of the HCoC and to enhance its implementation by Subscribing States. Canada, on assuming the Chairmanship for 2015-2016, introduced the objectives of its presidency for the 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, 137 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.

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, particularly in regions, such as the Middle East, North-East Asia and South Asia. In this regard, the DPRK's increased number of ballistic missile launches in 2014-2015 were noted in the course of the discussions. The need to exercise the necessary vigilance 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 emphasized.

The Subscribing States stressed the ongoing need to stem 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 agreed to continue efforts for reaching universalization of the Code, which remains of paramount importance. The Subscribing States also stressed the importance of full implementation of the Code, in particular with regard to Pre-Launch-Notifications and the timely submission of Annual Declarations, and declared their intention to encourage and achieve improved performance in these areas.

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