

17TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBING STATES
TO THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST
BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

PRESS RELEASE BY HCoC SUBSCRIBING STATES

The seventeenth 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 72 registered delegations, from May 28 to 29, 2018. The participants reaffirmed the importance of the Code as a unique multilateral confidence building and transparency instrument against ballistic missile proliferation, which contribute to the process of strengthening existing national and international security arrangements and disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and mechanisms. Poland, 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. Sweden, on assuming the Chairmanship for 2018-2019, introduced the objectives of its presidency for the year. The main objectives are the universalization of the Code, full implementation of all its aspects and promoting strong support for the resolution on the Code to be adopted at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Currently, 139 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 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. Lesotho's subscription to the Code in 2017 was seen as a good example for the process of universalization.

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 2017 HCoC Annual Regular Meeting in the context of relevant UNSC resolutions. They noted with encouragement the recent DPRK statement announcing the suspension of ballistic missile launches, and expressed hope for progress.

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 for reaching universalization of the Code, which remains of paramount importance. The Subscribing States agreed to promote a resolution on the HCoC to be adopted at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly. 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.

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