

16TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBING STATES TO
THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST
BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

PRESS RELEASE BY HCoC SUBSCRIBING STATES

The sixteenth 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 64 registered delegations, from June 6 to June 7, 2017. This year marks fifteen years since the Code was established in 2002.

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. Kazakhstan, 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. Poland, on assuming the Chairmanship for 2017-2018, 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, 138 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. India's subscription to the Code in 2016 was seen as a good example for the process of universalisation.

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. During the course of discussions, the continuation of ballistic missile launches by the DPRK since the 2016 annual regular meeting, to which the UNSC duly reacted with resolutions 2321 (2016) and 2356 (2017), was noted.

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, of which this year marks the 50th anniversary. 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.

The Subscribing States received a briefing from the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) regarding its work.”

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