

Measures to Constrain Ballistic Missile Proliferation in South Asia

- o Certain study assumptions have been made about India and Pakistan during the period between 1996 and 2006. These are assumptions, not predictions, and they concern a period of great uncertainty. The assumptions take into account certain geopolitical constraints and realities, however disturbing and/or undesirable.
 - oo India and Pakistan will remain adversaries, and India will remain deeply suspicious of China's intentions, but no major war will occur in South Asia.
 - oo India and Pakistan will remain threshold (but undeclared) nuclear powers. Unless they become signatories of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), they may conduct tests.
 - oo Both countries will continue to develop chemical and biological weapons capabilities unless they ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention and there is a strengthened Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.
 - oo Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs will enjoy strong support from certain sectors of the population of these countries, for example, the military, and broad-based support from the general public.
 - oo Both countries will possess ballistic missiles capable of delivering WMD and conventional warheads on key military and civilian targets.
 - oo Neither country will possess effective defences against ballistic missile threats.
 - oo Each country will have good intelligence on the capabilities, but not necessarily the intentions, of the other country.
 - oo Suspicions of the other side's motives and intentions will remain high.
 - oo Domestic policies and dynamics will require at least rhetorical bellicosity and strong indications of military readiness.

Current Conditions in South Asia

- o Proliferation in South Asia is part of a chain of relationships and rivalries: India seeks to achieve deterrence against China, which asserts itself regionally and globally as a self-appointed superpower, and Pakistan seeks to create a level playing field against a militarily-stronger and larger India.