

## FOREWORD

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1. The Government believes Canadians hold strong views about the role which their country plays internationally. They want Canada to fulfill its international security obligations, to participate in peacekeeping missions, to work towards the maintenance of international order and stability and to maintain a strong stand against human rights abuses. All of these elements were weighed in the process which resulted in the 1986 Export Controls Policy announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.
2. The 1986 Export Controls Policy guidelines clearly states that Canada would closely control the export of military goods and technology to:
  - a) countries which pose a threat to Canada and its allies;
  - b) countries involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities;
  - c) countries under United Nations Security Council sanctions; and
  - d) countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.
3. Every application to export military goods or technologies to countries other than NATO allies and a small number of like-minded countries is reviewed on a case-by-case basis by officials in External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) in consultation with officials from the Department of National Defence and of Industry, Science and Technology. Review by the Secretary of State for External Affairs is required for applications to export military goods and technologies to all countries that fall within the scope of the above guidelines. In addition, all applications for the export of military goods and technologies considered to be "offensive" to any country that is not a NATO ally or among the small number of like-minded countries are referred to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for decision.
4. As a complement to its national Export Controls Policy, Canada has been pursuing increased international transparency, consultation and restraint in arms transfers and procurement. Our aim is not to prevent countries from acquiring the weapons necessary for reasonable defence purposes. It is rather to prevent the development of arsenals that exceed reasonable defence requirements, particularly in areas of tension.
5. Canada has also been a prominent proponent of the United Nations Arms Register. That Register comes into operation this year and will record information on arms exports and imports as supplied by member states. Canada strongly supports the Register and, to date, is the only country that has announced its intention to include information on its