

Creating the Legal Framework

Reducing the threat of WMD is a complex business that requires a comprehensive legal framework in order to operate effectively and control risks. This framework consists of a combination of multilateral agreements, bilateral agreements and third-party arrangements, which are supplemented by specific implementing arrangements governing the release of funds. In all cases, these arrangements must be consistent with national and international law, as well as other international agreements to which Canada is a party.

To effectively carry out a wide range of cooperative risk reduction projects, Canada's Global Partnership Program has made use of different delivery mechanisms, established and protected by the framework of arrangements and agreements. These mechanisms enable Canada to build on the resources of other *Global Partnership* contributors. The result is a truly cooperative international program that makes effective use of contributed resources.

Canada-Russia Bilateral Agreement

Priority Areas: Nuclear Submarine Dismantlement, Nuclear and Radiological Security, and Chemical Weapons Destruction

The legal foundation for bilateral cooperation between Canada and Russia was put in place on June 9, 2004, with the signing of a treaty: *The Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning Cooperation on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, the Dismantlement of Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines and Nuclear and Radioactive Material Protection, Control and Accountancy*. The

conclusion of the treaty represented a milestone in the implementation of Canada's Global Partnership Program, as it provided the protections necessary for Canada to negotiate and implement bilateral projects in Russia.

Multilateral Agreements

*International Science and Technology Center
Priority Area: Redirection of Former Weapons Scientists*

Canada acceded to the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) on March 1, 2004, as a full party. This Moscow-based intergovernmental organization is dedicated to the redirection of former weapons scientists to peaceful research. Canada is now the third largest contributor (up to \$18 million per year) and participates in all decision-making bodies of the organization. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on December 16, 2003, covering the conditions governing Canada's support to the ISTC. Canada began committing funds to research proposals and projects in March 2004.

Multilateral Plutonium Disposition Group

Priority Area: Nuclear and Radiological Security

Canada is a member of the Multilateral Plutonium Disposition Group, a G8 group that is working on the framework necessary to enable work to proceed on the disposition of 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium in Russia. Key objectives at this stage of the program are resolving cost issues, ensuring adequate international financing and achieving agreement on an appropriate program management structure.