

Addressing this Cold War legacy was an enormous task, one well beyond the capacity of Russia and other countries of the FSU. A few nations responded in the 1990s with bilateral and multilateral projects to help deal with the risks posed by these weapons and the infrastructure that supported their production. Some progress was made, most notably through the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction program initiated by Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, but much more work was required. The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 provided a tragic reminder of the seriousness of terrorist threats and underscored the urgency of preventing terrorists and states of proliferation concern from adding weapons and materials of mass destruction to their repertoires. They also provided the catalyst for the formation of the G8-led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.¹

The Global Partnership owes a lot to Canada. It was launched at the G8 Kananaskis Summit in June 2002 to reflect strong political support at the leader's level and provided a framework for increased cooperation in global threat reduction. At this summit, G8 Leaders committed to raising up to US\$20 billion over a 10-year period to support projects that would address this Cold War WMD legacy.

Canada, as host of the 2002 Summit, played a pivotal role in shaping the Global Partnership, both in terms of championing the initiative and bringing other G8 countries on board, and in developing the Principles and Guidelines that underpin the Partnership's activities. Serving as the first chair of the Global Partnership Senior Officials Group, Canada also led the initiative

during the early stages of implementation—securing initial financial commitments, facilitating the development of multilateral and bilateral projects, and broadening the Partnership beyond G8 members.

To date, 13 additional countries have joined the Global Partnership, and overall commitments are in the range of US\$19 billion. These commitments targeted a number of projects, with special emphasis on activities in the four areas identified as being among the priorities of G8 Leaders:

- the destruction of chemical weapons;
- the dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines;
- the disposition of fissile materials; and
- the redirection of former weapons scientists.

Canada's Global Partnership Program was launched in September 2002. Initial efforts focused on establishing the organization, defining the Program's structure, recruiting specialized expertise, obtaining the required authorities and putting a comprehensive legal framework in place. This required the negotiation of numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements and specific contractual arrangements to enable projects to move ahead. Canada's Global Partnership Program is now fully operational, implementing projects in all priority areas.

Milestones and achievements of Canada's Global Partnership Program from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 are listed below.

¹ Also referred to as the "Global Partnership" or "Partnership".



Highly radioactive materials that could be used to construct a "dirty bomb" are currently powering Russian lighthouses. Photo Credit: County Governor of Finnmark (Norway)