

## 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 leading to the current export controls policy guidelines.
2. Those guidelines state 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 of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in consultation with officials from the Department of National Defence and the Department of Industry. Review by the Minister of Foreign 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 a small number of like-minded countries are referred to the Minister of Foreign 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 was one of eighty-three countries to make submissions to the new United Nations Register for Conventional Arms which came into effect in 1993. The Register records information on imports and exports of seven major categories of conventional weapon systems. Canada views the Register as an important mechanism in enhancing transparency in international arms flows and inhibiting excessive build-ups of conventional