

Active and passive ballistic missile defence capabilities have a deterrent value in promoting strategic stability. Ballistic missiles are destabilizing. Because of their short time of flight and trajectories, they deliver weapons without much warning. One way to reduce this instability and to decrease the military and psychological value of ballistic missiles may be to develop ballistic missile defences. Such development may increase the possibility that ballistic missiles will not be acquired or used. On the other hand, the indigenous development or acquisition of ballistic missile defences by one party could lead the other party (parties) to add to its offensive capabilities, thus resulting in further regional instability.

Ballistic Missile-Focussed Regional Measures To Help Promote Stable Strategic Relationships

The following are some ballistic missile-focussed measures which, if successfully negotiated and implemented, could help promote regional stability.¹² The measures are not listed in any priority order; nor is the potential difficulty of implement each of them addressed, since this is likely to be very regionally- and scenario-dependent. There could be significant synergistic benefits among these measures depending on which ones are successfully implemented.¹³

Each measure will only be briefly described here; proposing and implementing any one in a specific regional context would require considerable elaboration, appropriate to the region and its countries, concerning specific content, negotiating tactics, and implementation strategies. Successful implementation would involve each party's ability to verify effectively compliance with the CBMs/CSBMs.

It should be recognized that in evaluating any CBM/CSBM that there will be tradeoffs between the contribution it makes to enhancing regional stability and the degree to which the security of an individual country is jeopardized by implementing the measure. In order to be

¹² In this paper, these measures will be designated as "confidence-building measures/confidence- and security-building measures (CBMs/CSBMs)" without making a distinction between these terms. In the European context, the first CBMs were introduced with the 1975 Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; the goal of these measures was to lessen the risk of surprise military attack by reducing uncertainty and misunderstanding. Under the Madrid Mandate, new measures, more concrete and extensive, were introduced; these measures were identified as CSBMs. In a regional context, the term CBM may be more acceptable; nevertheless, the measures proposed in this paper are sufficiently extensive that it could be argued that they are also CSBMs.

¹³ These potential synergistic effects are not identified in this paper.