

International Outreach

The *Global Partnership* is a cooperative initiative. Since the *Partnership's* inception, Canada has worked closely with other G8 and non-G8 nations through specially formed groups at all levels. Canada, as the first chair of the Global Partnership Senior Officials Group, was instrumental in directing initial outreach efforts to expand participation in the *Partnership* to non-G8 countries. By midB2003, there were six new members, all of which had made significant financial commitments to the *Global Partnership*—Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. This effort to bring in new countries continues, and the *Partnership* now counts 22 member nations (participating countries are identified in section I under the heading “Funding the *Global Partnership*”).

At the working level, Canada is a vice-chair of the Contact Experts Group. Composed of 16 countries or international organizations, this group helps coordinate work related to submarine dismantlement. Its next meeting will take place in Ottawa in October.

Apart from reaching out to other governments, Canada has been successful in negotiating an agreement with a non-government donor, the U.S.-based Nuclear Threat Initiative, which is contributing to Canada's chemical weapons destruction effort at Shchuch'ye.

The provision of funding in 2004 to establish and operate a Green Cross public outreach and information office in Izhevsk illustrates another facet of the Global Partnership Bureau's outreach and communications strategy in support of the *Global Partnership*. As noted earlier in this report, this facility will keep the local Russian population informed about CW storage and destruction facilities and plans.

Commending Canada's role in the *Global Partnership*

Sam Nunn, former U.S. senator and co-creator of the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, noted Canada's prominent role in the *Global Partnership* at a February 7, 2005, press conference in Washington, D.C., following the signing of the Canada–NTI Contribution Agreement:

“I want to commend the Canadians for taking a very prominent role in coming to the Partnership—the Global Partnership. ... not only did they help stimulate the agreement itself ... but most importantly from our point of view, we keep seeing Canada time after time work on securing the additional funds from the pledges that need to be made, and they're also working on converting the pledges to actual dollars and the dollars to actual programs.”