

Looking Ahead – Canada's Priorities for 2006-2007

The groundwork put in place for the Global Partnership Program, described in this and last year's Annual Report, has enabled Canada to move quickly with project implementation—much faster than many other countries. The Program has now become fully operational, and activities are expected to intensify in all priority areas in the coming years. Clear results are becoming increasingly visible.

Priority Projects

CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION

Canada's extensive work at the Shchuch'ye CWDF will continue during the course of 2006. According to the Russian Federation, this facility will be completed by 2008, enabling Russia to meet its CWC destruction deadline. With this deadline in mind, Canada is considering undertaking similar work at Kizner beginning in 2007. The stockpile at the facility represents a serious CW proliferation threat, and Canada is in a position to build on the expertise and cooperation developed at Shchuch'ye.

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE DISMANTLEMENT

Canada's ongoing work on the Arctic fleet is expected to be completed by 2010. Submarine dismantlement activities will continue, under the second and third implementing arrangements, and negotiations of the fourth implementing arrangement will take activities to the end of existing authorities. An extra year of work may be required to complete activities in the North.

NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY

Given the seriousness of the threats posed by unprotected or unaccounted nuclear materials, this area has become an increasingly high priority under the Global Partnership Program. Consequently, more resources will be devoted to physical protection upgrades for nuclear facilities. The work that has been done with the IAEA and on RTGs will continue within Russia. The status of the Multilateral Plutonium Disposition Program continues to be a priority to be monitored closely, as is future work at Chernobyl.

REDIRECTION OF FORMER WEAPONS SCIENTISTS

The immediate priority is to increase the number of Canadian partners and collaborators for project cooperation, through an enhanced outreach program in Canada, to ensure that our science

community is aware of the benefits that can flow from this part of the Program. With both the ISTC and the STCU falling under the Global Partnership Program, efforts will be made to improve the synergies between their works, including through development of a more strategic approach.

BIOLOGICAL NON-PROLIFERATION

Addressing the risks associated with biological agents is an area of growing importance within the Program. Canada plans to increase its activities under the Biological Non-Proliferation Program to raise awareness among a larger number of donor countries of the need for sustained attention to this area, and to implement specific projects to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity in Russia and FSU countries.

Canada's Commitment

Ongoing review of the international security environment confirms that the possibility of weapons and materials of mass destruction falling into terrorist hands continues to represent a serious threat for Canada and the international community. The Global Partnership remains the only multinational response aimed specifically at this threat. Canada's Global Partnership Program is reviewed annually to determine the appropriateness of its response to these threats, and will be adjusted as needed.

While notable progress has been made to date, there is still a long way to go in all areas. Canada is committed to maintaining its active role and leadership at the project implementation and policy levels. Canada will continue to work with other partners to build on the progress and momentum achieved and to encourage all countries to fully implement their financial pledges and turn these into concrete activities. In this way, Canada will continue to work to ensure that the Global Partnership Program fulfills an important mandate within the broader non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agenda.

"While G8 Global Partnership efforts over the past four years have helped secure and/or eliminate thousands of nuclear weapons, construct chemical weapons destruction facilities and retrain thousands of former weapons scientists, much remains to be done."

— Mikhail Gorbachev, Former Soviet President, from a letter encouraging leaders of the Global Partnership to expand efforts, especially in Russia (December 21, 2005)