

## Preface

In the context of examining the future orientation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Canada chaired a meeting, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, in Montreux (August 31 - September 1, 1995) to examine ways in which the MTCR might be reinforced as our key instrument for dealing with the challenges of missile proliferation. Discussions at the Montreux meeting ranged from examining global norm development to complement the MTCR to the role that transparency and confidence-building measures might play in combatting missile proliferation -- particularly at the regional level. At the conclusion of the Montreux meeting, Partners agreed to keep these issues under review, as appropriate.

In this regard, at the Bonn Plenary (October 10 -12, 1995) MTCR Partners agreed that, as part of their ongoing efforts to reinforce and strengthen the MTCR and to deal with urgent problems of missile proliferation, they could meet intersessionally, on an *ad hoc* basis, reinforced with experts, to seek ways of developing practical approaches which could be used by Partners in responding to proliferation challenges. MTCR partners agreed that the regional dimension of missile proliferation deserved special attention.

Canada is a firm proponent of continuing work within the MTCR to examine ways of strengthening the regime to address the missile proliferation threat. In Canada's view this effort needs to focus on both the broader, longer-term issue of norm building and the more immediate need to develop a range of approaches and instruments that might be used to meet specific regional missile proliferation challenges. Such approaches should also seek to engage both suppliers and recipients in dialogue and cooperation to avert the risks of missile proliferation.

Canada's working paper, "Regional Approaches to Constraining Ballistic Missile Proliferation," is being circulated to MTCR partners in the hope that it will contribute positively to our discussions and practical work at this first meeting of the Reinforced Points of Contact. We look forward to the comments and views of Partners on this paper.