

KEY MESSAGES: CANADIAN POSITION

- In the post Cold War environment, we share many US concerns about new challenges to both national and global security, including threats from intra-state conflict, from terrorist attack and from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including ballistic missiles. We therefore welcome continued discussion with the US as to the best means to respond to these threats.
- Missile defence may be able to play a role in this respect. It need not be incompatible with arms control and disarmament.
- However, missile defence must enhance global security without damaging the international arms control and disarmament regime. Continuing US engagement and leadership in multilateral arms control and disarmament is essential for strategic stability.
- We welcome US consultative efforts with Allies, Russia and China and will be carefully assessing the results of their ongoing efforts.
- We attach particular importance to the US/ Russia talks and the future of the ABM Treaty. If the ABM Treaty is to be amended or replaced, we would want to be assured that the new strategic framework makes a similar contribution to global security.
- We also welcome US pursuit of a dialogue with China on these issues.
- We welcome US intentions to reduce their numbers of missiles. Reductions in the world's total number of nuclear weapons are to be applauded. We look forward to learning how these reductions could be codified internationally.
- We are urging the US to take all the time needed to fully explore the implications of a decision on the deployment of a ballistic missile defence system and to find a way forward that maintains global strategic stability.