

Since its inception, the *Global Partnership* has included an outreach component to encourage and facilitate the participation of non-G8 countries in this cooperative threat reduction initiative. Canada played a leading role in encouraging more countries to enter the *Partnership* as donors. By 2003, six additional countries had joined—Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland—committing about US\$200 million to specific projects. Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea were welcomed as new partners at the 2004 G8 Sea Island Summit, and Ukraine joined later in the year as a recipient.

A summary of *Global Partnership* member commitments can be found in Appendix A.

“The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a real and immediate threat. ... We must have the strength to confront this threat directly with concrete action, not mere talk of action.”

—Alexander Downer, Australia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Remarks at the opening session of the Australia Group Annual Plenary Meeting, Sydney, April 18, 2005.

Priorities for Action

At the Kananaskis Summit in 2002, G8 members highlighted four priority areas to receive support under the initiative:

1. The destruction of chemical weapons;
2. The dismantlement of nuclear submarines;
3. The disposition of fissile materials; and
4. The redirection of former weapons scientists.

Global Partnership partners make specific commitments to projects that fit within one or more of these priority areas. For example, Japan is focusing on dismantling nuclear submarines and plutonium disposition, while Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States are supporting all four of the priority non-proliferation activities. Canada and other partners also have programs to support biological non-proliferation initiatives in several countries of the former Soviet Union.

Monitoring Progress

The G8 established the Global Partnership Senior Officials Group (GPSOG) in 2002 to facilitate project implementation, develop and exchange best practices, monitor ongoing progress, maintain program priorities in line with international security obligations and objectives, and prepare a progress report for G8 leaders. This group also assisted in identifying project gaps and potential overlap.

In 2004, G8 groups were restructured. The Senior Group was created to oversee the full range of non-proliferation issues, while responsibility for

implementing *Global Partnership* projects was vested in the newly formed Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG). The GPWG, which includes members from non-G8 countries, now reports to the G8 Senior Group. The GPWG is charged with reviewing implementation guidelines and issues, initiating and developing projects, and undertaking outreach activities associated with expansion of the *Partnership* to non-G8 countries. It also compiles consolidated reports of project activity and prepares an annual progress report for G8 leaders.