

risks posed by these weapons and the infrastructure that supported their production. Some progress was made, most notably through the United States' Cooperative Threat Reduction program initiated by Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, but much more work was required. The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, provided a tragic reminder of the seriousness of terrorist threats and underscored the urgency of preventing terrorists and states of proliferation concern from adding weapons and materials of mass destruction to their repertoires. They also provided the catalyst for the formation of the G8 *Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*.¹

The *Global Partnership* has strong links to Canada. It was launched at the G8 Kananaskis Summit in June 2002 to indicate strong political support and provide a framework for increased cooperation in global threat reduction. At this summit, G8 leaders committed to raising up to US\$20 billion over a 10-year period to support projects that would address the Cold War WMD legacy.



Final negotiations of the Global Partnership at Kananaskis, June 2002

Canada, as host of the 2002 Summit, played a pivotal role in shaping the *Global Partnership*, particularly in drafting the principles and guidelines that underpin the *Partnership's* activities. Serving as the first chair of the Global Partnership Senior Officials Group, Canada led the initiative during

the early stages of implementation—securing initial financial commitments, facilitating the development of multilateral and bilateral projects, and broadening the *Partnership* beyond G8 members.

By the time of the G8 Summit at Sea Island in June 2004, 13 additional countries had joined the *Global Partnership* and overall commitments were in the US\$19-billion range. These commitments targeted a range of projects, with special emphasis on activities in the four areas identified as priorities by G8 leaders:

- the destruction of chemical weapons;
- the dismantlement of nuclear submarines;
- the disposition of fissile materials; and
- the redirection of former weapons scientists.

Canada's Global Partnership Program was launched in September 2002. Initial efforts focused on establishing the organization, defining the Program's structure, and recruiting specialized expertise. Once this initial base was established, it became possible to negotiate the bilateral and multilateral agreements and specific contractual arrangements that enable projects to move ahead. Canada's Global Partnership Program is now fully operational. It is implementing projects in all the priority areas, and it is working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)'s Audit and Evaluation Bureau to ensure that the necessary systems are in place to meet or exceed Canadian standards for accountability and comptrollership.

Milestones and achievements of Canada's Global Partnership Program are listed below:

- The Global Partnership Bureau was created in September 2002 as a new unit within DFAIT. The Bureau began assembling a team of experts and establishing the infrastructure abroad to oversee program development and implementation in all four priority areas of the *Global Partnership*.

¹ Also referred to as the "Global Partnership" or "Partnership."