

United States and other like-minded nations" on ballistic missile defence. It adds that there will continue to be "ongoing consultations with the U.S. for the specific purpose of determining what a future BMD system might entail."

6.5 Along with all other states, Canada has an obvious stake in maintaining a strategic environment of maximum stability.

7. The next steps:

7.1 The experts warned that if multilateral missile early warning and surveillance are approached the wrong way, a failed system or attempt could further destabilize the international strategic security environment. An effective system requires the full sharing of real, complete, reliable, and identical information in real time.

7.2 The various elements of such a system are not yet sufficiently understood to introduce them into direct political discussions, but the mobilizing of experts to seriously exploring the basic components and requirements of such a system would yield major benefits on two counts:

- the fact of serious exploration of the issue would yield political support for the basic idea that there are credible ways of addressing the ballistic missile threat by means other than ballistic missile defence; and
- the work of international experts would begin the process of assembling the basic information and analysis needed to develop a more mature proposal available for political attention.

7.3 **The experts thus encouraged Canada to work with civil society to assemble a panel of experts** for the purpose of developing a more mature proposal:

- the panel should include experts in:
 - technology,
 - relevant national and international laws, and
 - strategic and regional security issues.

7.4 Issues addressed should include the **technical, legal, and security** elements of:

- ballistic missile warning,
- ballistic missile launch notification,
- surveillance and monitoring of the pre-launch status of ballistic missiles,
- a missile control regime,
- a multilateral, rules-based system to regulate military activity in space,
- and
- similar cooperation in monitoring air defence systems.

7.5 The panel should begin its work as soon as possible to demonstrate that alternatives to NMD are being actively pursued.