

Legal issues: The legal basis for the Global Partnership has continued to expand. Since last year, one bilateral agreement in the area of chemical weapons destruction was concluded between Russia and France. Three other agreements involving dismantlement of nuclear submarines were signed with France, Japan and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). As well, the practice of “piggy-backing,” whereby a third country or organization uses an established bilateral agreement between another donor and Russia, has proven useful.

Access: The partners make every effort to resolve issues related to access as quickly as possible, in accordance with Russian legislation and bilateral agreements. Many problems have been resolved through cooperation with Russian authorities and site personnel. The parties agree to continue to resolve any possible issue related to access that may arise, in the spirit of cooperation and partnership, bearing in mind the common goals of the Global Partnership.

Taxation: In 2006, the Government of the Russian Federation introduced an amendment to its national legislation to improve the system of tax exemption for organizations receiving foreign assistance for the destruction of WMD.

III. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WILL PURSUE THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

Financing: It is essential for the success of the Partnership that all participants continue to turn financial pledges into concrete activities. The partners welcome the fact that Russia has substantially increased its own funding for the Global Partnership since the commencement of the initiative. Russia has already expended more than \$1 billion for chemical weapons destruction and near \$220 million for nuclear submarine dismantlement. The partners acknowledge that one of the essential factors of successful projects is a predictable, coordinated, targeted and efficient assistance.

Priorities: Significant work remains to be done to successfully complete current programs by 2012 to address all Kananaskis priorities. The Global Partnership participating countries agree on the need to reflect more widely the entire set of priorities set out at Kananaskis. The Global Partnership countries recognize that financial assistance for chemical weapons destruction in the Russian Federation will be needed mainly in the years 2006 to 2009. They take note of the interest of some partners to expand cooperation in the field of dismantlement of nuclear submarines in the far east of the Russian Federation.

Expanding the Global Partnership: The Global Partnership is open to further expansion in accordance with the Kananaskis documents. Taking into account the ongoing focus on projects in Russia, we continue to review the eligibility of other countries, including those from the CIS, to join the Partnership. Formal confirmation of their readiness to meet the conditions established in the Kananaskis documents—as well as detailed information on the projects they would want to be addressed under the Global Partnership—are required. The work in this area will continue.

Global Partnership Working Group: Conscious of the need for ongoing attention to specific issues affecting implementation, and of the value of regular exchanges among all participants, the Global Partnership Working Group will continue to serve as the forum to identify and resolve any problems that may arise. The Group, which brings together all countries participating in the Global Partnership—G8 and non-G8 alike—will also continue to provide an appropriate forum to exchange information and best practices.

Nearing the mid-point in the lifespan of the Global Partnership, it is recognized that there is a need to undertake an unbiased qualitative and quantitative assessment of the Partnership in order to provide a clear picture of what remains to be done. Such an assessment can help to clarify how each country can best define its participation, and how each can benefit from the expertise developed. The Global Partnership Working Group intends to undertake such a review during the coming year. Both recipient and donor countries welcome such a review guided by the central goals of the Kananaskis pledges.