

scientists who worked in them. The dissolution of the Soviet Union had a significant human impact on this group as tens of thousands of former weapons scientists were suddenly left unemployed or underemployed. This situation makes some of them vulnerable to offers made by groups and countries interested in acquiring knowledge and expertise related to WMD.

Addressing this Cold War legacy is an enormous task, one well beyond the capacity of Russia and other countries of the FSU. A few nations responded in the 1990s with bilateral and multilateral projects to help deal with the risks posed by these weapons and the infrastructure that supported their production. Some progress was made, most notably through the U.S. 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-led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.¹

The Global Partnership was launched at the G8 Kananaskis Summit in June 2002 to reflect strong political support from G8 countries and to provide a framework for increased cooperation in global threat reduction. At this summit, G8 countries committed to raising up to US\$20 billion² over a 10-year period to support projects that would address this Cold War WMD legacy.

Canada, as host of the 2002 Summit, played a pivotal role in shaping the Global Partnership, both in terms of championing the initiative and bringing other G8 countries on board, and in developing the Principles and Guidelines that underpin the Partnership's activities. Canada also 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. To date, 13 additional countries have joined the Global Partnership, and overall commitments are in the range of US\$19 billion.

The Global Partnership focuses on activities in the five priority areas identified by the G8:

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

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

² All monetary figures are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.



Nuclear submarine in floating dry dock prior to dismantling



*The Nuclear and Radiological Security team discusses strengthening security at Russian nuclear facilities to prevent terrorism.
Photo Credit: Obninsk – ISTC*

Canada's Global Partnership Program (GPP) was launched in September 2002. Initial efforts focused on establishing the organization, defining the Program's structure, recruiting specialized expertise, and obtaining the required authorities. It also required the negotiation of numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements and specific contractual arrangements to enable projects to move ahead. Canada's GPP has been implementing projects in all priority areas for the last four years.

Milestones and achievements of Canada's Global Partnership Program from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 are listed below.