

Other areas of cooperation

Physical protection of nuclear materials

The G8 Gleneagles Statement and the Sea Island G8 Action Plan on Non-Proliferation highlighted the importance of addressing the security of nuclear materials, equipment and technology, as well as radioactive sources.

A number of donors have now established programs with Russia and Ukraine to upgrade the physical protection of and account for nuclear materials. These include the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Canada, Norway, Sweden and the EU.

There is also increasing cooperation among those engaged in securing radiological sources. A number of donors, including the U.S., Norway, Denmark, the Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation (NEFCO), Germany, Canada and France are supporting dismantling, storing and replacing some 700 highly radioactive radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs), which have been used to power Russian lighthouses. With Canadian assistance, a Russian RTG Master Plan is being developed and efforts are under way to increase coordination among participating countries.

Global Partnership countries are also cooperating in other important spheres. The United States is cooperating with Russia and Ukraine on the dismantlement of strategic weapons systems, and enhancing the security of weapons transportation and storage. Some biosecurity projects are being implemented by several Global Partnership members.

The U.S. and Russia, with additional financial support from several other countries, are cooperating on the construction of fossil fuel power plants that, when completed, will allow the permanent closure of the three remaining Russian reactors that are producing weapons-grade plutonium. Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, the U.K. and New Zealand have also contributed funds to support these projects.

In Ukraine, a further step toward nuclear safety has been made with the replenishment of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund providing the necessary financial resources for completion of the new shelter. A number of donors are engaged in projects with Ukraine to enhance export control and border security systems to help prevent the illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction across national borders.

II. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP NOTE THE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION

Coordination and transparency: The growing pace of interaction and number of projects and other activities demands close cooperation, coordination and transparency. This has led to the creation of various informal structures between Russia and individual donor countries, or a number of donor countries active in the same area. As an example, groups are in place to facilitate coordination for nuclear submarine dismantlement projects in Andreeva Bay, Gremikha, elimination of RTGs, and construction of the chemical weapon destruction facility at Shchuch'ye. This practice can be emulated for other activities.

Close consultation, coordination and exchange of information on current and planned activities contribute to improving projects, reduce duplication and gaps, and enable best use of each country's resources.