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## CANADA WELCOMES EXPANSION OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced that Canada and the other 21 member nations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) have reached agreement on stricter export control guidelines for ballistic missiles and related technology. The new agreement broadens restrictions on exports to cover missile systems and technology capable of delivering chemical and biological weapons, as well as nuclear warheads.

"I welcome this new agreement, which responds to increasing concerns about the proliferation of smaller, lighter missile systems, such as those we saw during the Gulf Crisis," said Mrs. McDougall. "This government has made non-proliferation one of its priority policies, and the transformation of the existing MTCR into a regime covering all weapons of mass destruction is a significant step in achieving this goal."

Since its inception in 1987, the MTCR has become a key element of international co-operation to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction, related technology and their means of delivery. This new agreement expanding the MTCR has been agreed to by Canada and the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A joint statement issued by MTCR countries is attached.

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## JOINT STATEMENT BY MTCR COUNTRIES

The Government of Canada, together with its partners in the Missile Technology Control Regime, has strengthened its effort to combat the proliferation of ballistic missiles. Canada and all partners in the MTCR have adopted revised guidelines to extend the scope of the regime to missiles capable of delivering biological and chemical weapons as well as nuclear weapons. The adoption of these guidelines and their implementation confirms and tightens existing policy. These measures will further strengthen the MTCR and will be an important factor in countering the proliferation of missile systems.

The Government of Canada and its MTCR partners welcome the growing number of countries that have publicly committed themselves to respect the MTCR guidelines and call on all states to show a similar spirit of responsibility in the interest of international peace and security.

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