

**PUBLIC STATEMENT  
2006 PLENARY MEETING  
OF  
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR  
CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

The twelfth Plenary meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)\*, chaired by Ambassador Peter Shannon of Australia, was held in Vienna on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2006. This meeting marked the tenth anniversary of the WA, which was established in order to contribute to regional and international security and stability through the promotion of transparency and greater responsibility for transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

The Plenary brought together the forty Participating States of the WA. With the added participation of South Africa at this year's meeting, the Arrangement now enjoys representation from all continents. The Plenary reiterated that the WA is open, on a global and non-discriminatory basis, to prospective adherents that comply with the agreed criteria.

The WA continues to keep pace with advances in technology, market trends and international security developments, such as the threat of terrorist acquisition of military and dual-use goods and technologies. In this regard, the Plenary was able to reach agreement on a number of amendments to the control lists, including some in technically complex and challenging areas. The Plenary also agreed to initiate a dialogue between the WA Experts Group and its counterpart from the Missile Technology Control Regime with a view to discussing the control of specific items.

Apart from work on the control lists, and in consideration of growing international concerns about unregulated "intangible" transfers, such as by oral or electronic means, of software and technology related to conventional arms and dual-use items, the Plenary adopted a best practices document. This document, which the Plenary decided to make public on the WA website ([www.wassenaar.org](http://www.wassenaar.org)), will assist both Participating and non-Participating States alike in responding to the challenges associated with these transfers.

The Plenary also approved a document of *Best Practice Guidelines for the Licensing of Items on the Basic List and Sensitive List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies*. This document, which will also be made public on the WA website, is intended to assist States

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\* The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies was established on the basis of the Initial Elements adopted in July 1996 (see web site: [www.wassenaar.org](http://www.wassenaar.org)). Meetings are normally held in Vienna, Austria, where the Arrangement is based. Currently the Participating States of the Wassenaar Arrangement are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

in their implementation of effective export controls through guidance on the use of general licences and licence exceptions.

The WA continues to place a high priority on transparency and outreach to non-Participating States and international organisations, with the aim of promoting robust export controls. Over the past year, the WA conducted outreach to a number of non-Participating States and Participating States also undertook outreach in their national capacities.

In view of concerns about the acquisition of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) by unauthorised users, the Plenary encouraged Participating States to promote the Wassenaar Elements on Export Controls of MANPADS to non-Participating States and expressed appreciation for the Plenary Chair's outreach activities to this end.

As 2007 will be an assessment year, the Plenary established a framework for evaluating the overall functioning of the WA. This framework will guide the Arrangement in weighing its response to existing challenges to the export controls regime, as well as its preparedness for emerging challenges. In addition, the Plenary established several task forces to assist in its review process.

The Plenary reaffirmed the commitment of Participating States to take all appropriate measures to ensure effective implementation of all UNSCR provisions relevant to the purposes of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The Plenary thanked the Chair, Ambassador Peter Shannon, and his predecessor Ambassador Deborah Stokes, both of Australia, for their valuable contributions to the work of the WA in 2006. The Plenary also thanked Ambassador Rytis Paulauskas (Lithuania) for his chairmanship of the General Working Group, Lt. Col. László Szatmári (Hungary) for his leadership of the Experts Group list-review process over the past two years, and Mr. Egon Svensson (Sweden) for his leadership of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers' Meeting (LEOM) over the past year. Finally, the Plenary expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Sune Danielsson (Sweden) as Head of the WA Secretariat and his staff for ongoing support.

The next regular Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2007. Ambassador Philippe Nieuwenhuys of Belgium will assume the Chair of the Plenary from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007.

Vienna, 6 December 2006