

Statement by Ambassador (ret.) Sten Lundbo, Norway

Vienna, 6 December 2016

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

I thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for inviting me to this special reception in your Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

At the High Level Meeting of COCOM in November 1993 I was elected chairman of the Working Group on the basic policy document for what we at that time called the New Regime. The 17 member states of COCOM took part in the first phase of the negotiations. However, after COCOM ceased to exist on the 31st of March 1994, Austria, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland were invited to join the work. Together with the Chairman of the Working Group on the Control Lists, Mr. Walter Gayman of Germany and the Chairman of the Working Group on Administrative Affairs, Mr. Menno Goedhart of the Netherlands, I went to Moscow on 17th of August 1995 to inform the Russian authorities of the status of the negotiations. The following day we had a similar meeting in Paris with representatives of the Visegrad countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic. Thus, 28 countries took part in the final phase of the negotiations and became the “founding fathers” of the New Regime.

The Working Group on the basic policy document had 15 meetings during a period of two years. In addition, Ms. Anne Kari Lunde and Mr. Sverre Lunde of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I had numerous bilateral consultations prior to each meeting. At the final meeting of the Working Group at the Kléber International Conference Center in Paris on 17 November 1995, consensus was reached on all outstanding issues related to the basic policy document, which is known as the Initial Elements.

At the High Level Meeting of the 28 participating countries at the Wittenburg Castle in Wassenaar, the Netherlands on 18 – 19 December 1995, I proposed that the New Forum should be named The Wassenaar Arrangement, in recognition of the venue which the Dutch authorities had made available for all the High Level Meetings for the New Forum. This was decided by consensus.

Thanks to efficient support from the Secretariat in Vienna, the participating states have made significant progress since 1996 with a view to preventing destabilising accumulation of conventional arms and relevant technologies and preventing the acquisition of such items by terrorists. The Wassenaar Arrangement has succeeded in establishing high standards related to export control of conventional arms, military and dual use items and technologies. I am confident that this unique export control cooperation will continue to be a valuable contribution to regional and international security and stability in the future.

Permit me to mention one matter of particular importance during the final stage of the negotiations on the basic policy document: the necessity to have a predictable mechanism for how the new regime could keep pace with international developments in order to remain relevant and effective. We agreed on the “Assessment of the Whole” to take place on a regular basis. I understand that the fifth Assessment exercise has taken place this year. I hope that representatives of all the present 41 participating states will have productive discussions and take relevant decisions during the twenty-second plenary meeting.



Mr. Sten Lundbo

(Photo courtesy of Dodge and Burn for Cercle Diplomatique)

20th Anniversary of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies,
Vienna 6 December 2016

Excerpts from remarks by
Ambassador (ret.) Sune Danielsson,
Head of the Wassenaar Arrangement Secretariat 2002-2012

Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Chairman of the Plenary, Ambassador Griffiths, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

I do not have a prepared statement because I did not know that I would be invited to speak. However, when I was offered the opportunity to do so I could not resist the temptation to make a few remarks.

I would like to say that it was an honour and a pleasure to serve as Head of Secretariat for ten years between 2002 and 2012. I am very grateful to all who supported me during this period. I would like to thank my colleagues in the Secretariat and say that it was a great pleasure to work with you. Also, I thank the Participating States for having shown their trust in me for such a long time.

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After I left the Secretariat in 2012, I have spent a lot of time to sell the product of the work of the Arrangement. To promote exports control - or as I prefer to call it – Strategic Trade Control – in different parts of the world has been very rewarding.

When you work with countries outside the Arrangement you realize what an impact the Arrangement has. Many countries which before have shown very little interest in introducing national measures to control the transfer of sensitive products are now taking a great interest in what the Arrangement is doing.

In promoting Strategic Trade Controls, I have been arguing that all countries have a legal obligation under UNSC Resolution 1540 to control the exports of sensitive products. But I have also underlined that it is in the national interest of countries to do so, both for reasons of national and regional security and for economic reasons. You do not want arms or other sensitive items to end up with countries or groups that threaten your national security or the security and stability of your region. Also, controlling the transfer of sensitive products is necessary to be recognized as a respected trading partner. Importation of controlled products are necessary for many industrial processes and an export license may not be granted if the importing country does not control the reexport. The same goes for the control of sensitive technology and to attract foreign investment a country needs to make sure that controlled technology does not end up in the wrong hands.

I always underline that that the standards and control lists that have been developed by the Wassenaar Arrangement are available for all countries to use free of charge. To develop these standards and keep the control lists up to date is a very resource consuming exercise and more and more countries realize that it is to their advantage to make use of these standards.

I can inform you that the latest country which has decided to implement a national system of strategic trade control reflecting the Wassenaar Control Lists is the Philippines¹.

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¹ The Strategic Trade Management Act of November 2015 applies to goods specified in the National Strategic Goods List (NSGL). The NSGL has the following three annexes: 1) the Military Goods containing the EU Common Military List which is the same as the WA Munitions List, 2) Dual Use Goods containing the EU DU List which includes the WA DU List, and 3) Nationally Controlled Goods.

I had the privilege to be present when the 10th Anniversary of the Arrangement was celebrated here in this very room. When I look around the room it is obvious that the attendance tonight is much greater than at the previous Anniversary. I take that as a sign of an increasing interest in the work of the Arrangement.

I wish you all the best in your continued efforts in the Wassenaar Arrangement,
Thank you for your attention.



Former WA Head of Secretariat Sune Danielsson

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