

Ministerial Statement

Wassenaar Arrangement Tenth Anniversary Commemoration

December 7, 2006

Ministers of the Participating States in the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies are pleased to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Arrangement's first Plenary meeting in 1996. The Arrangement was established at Wassenaar, The Netherlands in December 1995. During the past decade the Wassenaar Arrangement has made significant contributions toward regional and international security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in the transfer of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilizing accumulations.

The Wassenaar Arrangement now consists of forty Participating States, seven having joined since 1996. The Arrangement has pursued outreach activities with non-participating countries and other international organizations in order to promote effective national export control procedures. The establishment of a Secretariat in Vienna, a centre of international non-proliferation efforts, has contributed to the fulfillment of the Arrangement's overall objectives.

We wish to reaffirm the importance of the Wassenaar Arrangement's role as a multilateral institution that makes an important contribution to regional and international security and stability. It is important to note that Wassenaar's work goes beyond controlling exports of sensitive goods. The Participating States in the Arrangement have also achieved substantial success in ensuring that new technologies with potential military application are not diverted to unauthorized end-users. As technology advances, the countries of the Wassenaar Arrangement will continue this important work.

Another important element of the Arrangement's work is promotion of international transparency and responsibility through such instruments as *Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons*, *Elements for Effective Legislation on Arms Brokering*, and *Elements for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems*. Participating States also resolve to continue working toward effective international compliance with United Nations Security Council arms embargoes and to support UN efforts to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

2007 will be the next Assessment year for the Wassenaar Arrangement. We approach the Assessment determined to build on the progress already achieved. On behalf of all Participating States we reaffirm our commitment to pursue with renewed vigor the ideals upon which the Wassenaar Arrangement was founded a decade ago. Our strong support for robust export controls around the world will ensure the continued relevance of the Wassenaar Arrangement.