

MTCR Chair Address

June, New York

Esteemed Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to greet you in my capacity as the current Chair of the Missile Technology Control Regime and wish you productive and fruitful discussions.

The Resolution 1540 has become an integral part of the global non-proliferation architecture. Its mandate is quite unique as it includes not only WMDs, but also their means of delivery, thus creating a direct link to MTCR.

This year the MTCR is celebrating its 35th anniversary. It is a technology-focused export control regime, a voluntary association of 35 like-minded countries seeking to limit the export of items that can help produce WMD means of delivery.

The MTCR Partners apply agreed standards known as “Guidelines for Sensitive Missile-Related Transfers” when considering exports of the missile-related technology, which is listed in the “Technical Annex”.

The Annex differentiates between two groups of Items. Complete rocket and unmanned aerial vehicle systems capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kg to ranges 300 km or greater, their major subsystems, related software and technology belong to Category I and are subject to an unconditional strong presumption of denial. They are licensed for export only on rare occasions, while exports of their production facilities are prohibited absolutely. Category II items include other dual-use missile related components, as well as complete missile systems capable of a range at least 300 km, regardless of payload. Their export is subject to licensing requirements specified in the Guidelines.

As non-listed items may also be used for purposes not in line with the MTCR, it was agreed to introduce catch-all controls. That is to say, if exports are judged by the exporting country to be intended for use in WMD delivery, they are to become subject to a strong presumption of denial. Regarding denials, it is important to note that the MTCR has a no-undercut policy. This means that Partners need to consult

each other before considering export of exporting an item that has been notified as a denial.

As you can see, the Regime is a unique arrangement that deals with the supply side of proliferation and underpins the NPT, BTWC and CWC. Applying the MTCR Guidelines and Annex on a national basis helps countries to meet their export control obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

The MTCR has established a well-functioning channel of communication with non-members through “outreach” visits. In the era of AI, cloud computing and additive manufacturing, proliferation challenges cannot be addressed by the MTCR Partners alone – we need to join forces with other states which subscribe to the MTCR’s objectives. Mutually-enriching dialogue will allow us to share ideas and best practices and exchange views on the challenges we are facing nowadays.

To broaden our network of cooperation, a formal unilateral adherence to the Guidelines and the Annex was brought forward at the Oslo Plenary as a new status of relations with the MTCR. Countries which are not Partners to the Regime but are seeking to build effective national export controls are strongly encouraged to express it, thereby publicly demonstrating their commitment to fight proliferation of WMD means of delivery.

States which have filed a respective request are offered invitations to Technical Outreach Meetings, where updates on recent changes to Guidelines and Technical Annex are presented. Additionally, they can hold meetings with the MTCR Chair on the sidelines of other multilateral fora. Furthermore, they may ask for presentations held by MTCR Partners at Licensing and Enforcement Experts Meetings, under condition of agreement by the presenting Partners. And last but not least, such countries are listed on the MTCR website, while reference to them is included in each MTCR Plenary press release.

I hope that with these broad strokes I have managed to paint a general picture of the MTCR, its objectives and relationship with Resolution 1540. I would be glad if the Regime’s Guidelines could become a source countries could rely upon on their way to the implementation of the Resolution.

Thank you for your attention.