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 **WELCOME**

Welcome to our MTCR newsletter! We want you to know more about who we are and what we do. We hope you find the content of this issue interesting.



CHAIR'S REFLECTIONS

There are some things that remain uppermost in the DNA of a country even as we work through a crisis as overwhelmingly important as COVID-19. For New Zealand, that includes our unhesitating support for global disarmament and non-proliferation and for the rules and norms that support these endeavours. Our chairing of the MTCR over the 2019-2020 year is part and parcel of New Zealand's recognition of the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and by their delivery systems.

In welcoming delegates to Auckland for the Regime's 2019 Plenary meeting last October, our Minister of Justice, Hon Andrew Little, commented that "the work the MTCR does remains an important contributor to global non-proliferation and international security. There can be no doubt about the importance of [the MTCR's] objectives. Recent years have served to highlight the destabilising impact missiles and missile technology can have on regional security".

The unity of purpose shown by members in living up to the MTCR's mandate to prevent missile-related proliferation was very evident at the Auckland meeting and remains the bedrock of the Regime's success. The Public Statement released in Auckland provides a good insight into the shape of the discussions that took place there and highlights the Regime continued commitment to its mission.

As Chair, since October 2019 I've been able to lead only a small number of outreach activities. Outreach has been constrained throughout 2020 by the unprecedented advent of the COVID pandemic but key aspects of what we have been able to do are profiled later in this newsletter.

We have focused, in the main, on increasing general awareness of the MTCR and on encouraging broad support for its goals – and we have been encouraged to see an increasing interest in the work of the MTCR as well as recognition of the importance of export controls in meeting our non-proliferation goals.

As the MTCR 'torch' passes on to Austria in October, and then afterwards to Russia, I wish my successors all the very best for their year in the Chair's seat.

Dell Higgle



WHAT WE DO

The MTCR focuses on preventing the proliferation of the systems – such as missiles and rockets – able to deliver weapons of mass destruction, i.e. nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The Regime is unique in its focus on the means of delivery of WMD. Controlling the exports of missile-related goods and technologies is vitally important to all of us.

The MTCR is an informal, voluntary group of countries. There are 35 members around all corners of the globe and we also have three formal ‘adherent’ states.

At the heart of the Regime is an adherence to a common export policy, the Guidelines, applied to an agreed list of items contained in the MTCR Equipment, Software, and Technology Annex. The MTCR does not take any export licensing decision *collectively*. Rather, members decide how to implement the Guidelines and Annex within their own domestic frameworks.

The MTCR is not at all about disrupting legitimate trade. Having a clear and harmonised approach to the control of exports in the MTCR area is important for

both states and companies alike. The Regime is also not about restricting access to equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. Its focus is entirely on limiting the risk that trade, or technological development, could contribute to the proliferation of missiles capable of carrying WMD.

The MTCR has been in place for over 30 years now and has proved itself to be an effective multilateral tool to combat missile proliferation. Members exchange information on the licensing of exports and on best practice. Together, its members have set a global standard for responsible efforts to control the proliferation of missiles.

All states can make use of the MTCR’s international benchmark on transfers of missiles and related technology. Indeed, MTCR partner countries encourage them to do so as a contribution to global security.

The Regime’s Guidelines can be used in support of efforts to design, improve, and implement national export controls by any state. Above all, they can assist in meeting the obligations on all states to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540.



THE TEM: KEEPING CALM AND CARRYING ON!

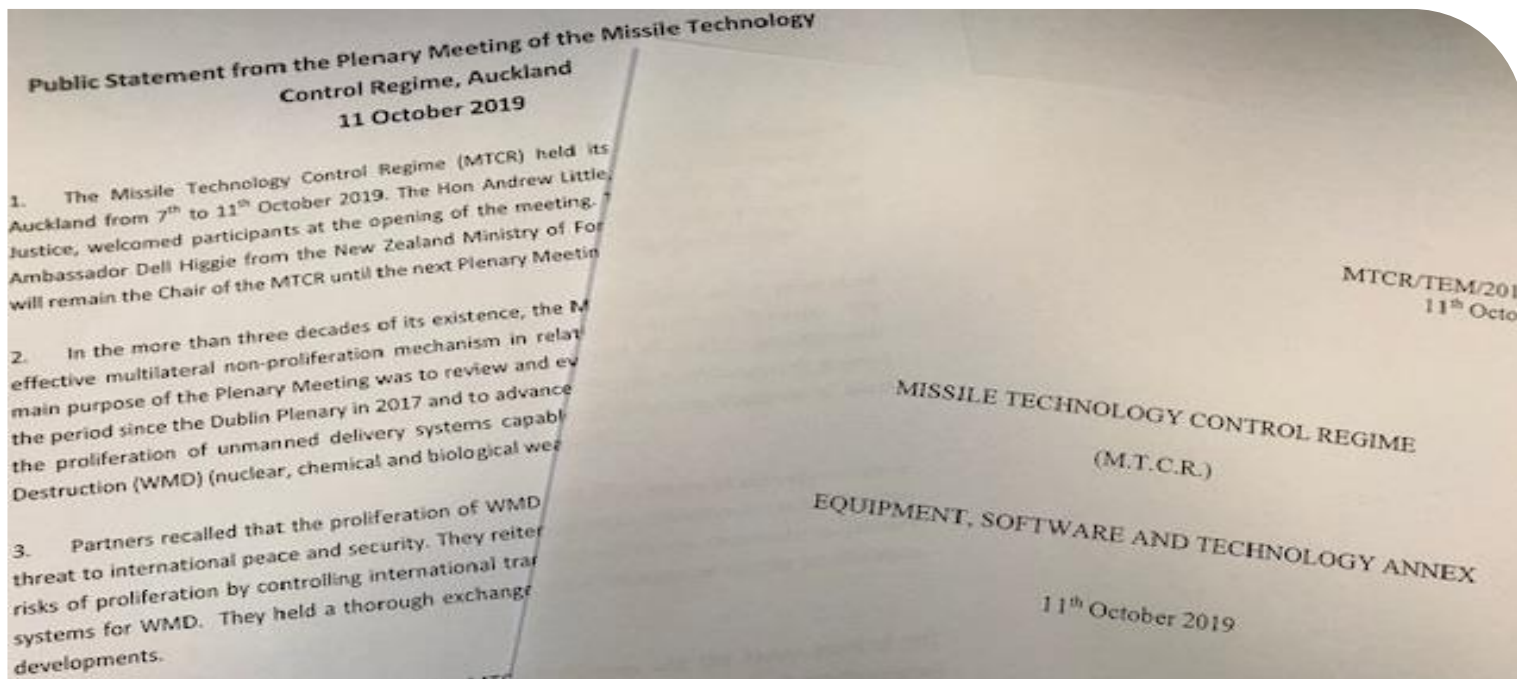
Whilst we are living through these unprecedented times, the work of the MTCR Technical Experts Meeting continues to be a vital part of the MTCR. The TEM agrees to any new sensitive items being added to the MTCR list of controlled items, amongst other changes.

There are changes afoot within the TEM. To misquote Oscar Wilde - to lose one TEM Chair, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both Co-Chairs looks like carelessness! The Auckland Plenary TEM was the last under the chairmanship of Mr Gerben Hazebroek from the Netherlands, and, as it turned out, also the last one with Mr Timothy O’Sullivan from Australia as the Co-Chair. Both are long-time attendees and have made a significant contribution to the technical work of the MTCR. They will be sorely missed. The work of the TEM will, however, continue and I look forward to welcoming our new Co-Chair, Seraina Frost of Switzerland.

The postponement of the 2020 intersessional TEM in Dnipro, Ukraine, means that the next meeting will have a greater number of proposals. Whilst there may not appear to be a large number of existing proposals, it’s more a question of quality rather than quantity. Of the eight proposals still under discussion, only two are from the 2019 TEM; the others date back further and are often ones that are challenging to agree upon.

In addition, there are already two new proposals and a non-paper for discussion. However, there is certainly scope for more proposals and non-papers - and MTCR partners are encouraged to bring both to the table for the next meeting; especially as the extra time between the TEM sessions is a great opportunity for working on those new proposals and ideas! Hopefully the TEM will be back in full swing at the next Plenary and, as its new Chair, I look forward to seeing many colleagues, both old and new, in Austria!

Andrew Horton, TEM Chair



IEM & LEEM: COUNTERING PROLIFERATION - DURING A PANDEMIC

To complement the annual Plenary meetings, and those of the TEM, the MTCR has set up two additional Expert Groups: one for information exchange and the other for close cooperation between licensing and enforcement experts. Both the IEM (Information Exchange Meeting) and the LEEM (Licensing and Enforcement Experts Meeting) operate on an informal basis.

Just as missile programmes of concern and related procurement efforts have continued during the COVID-19 crisis, so, too, has our information exchange on these issues. Some partners have used the opportunity to optimise their national licensing procedures by improving digitisation and electronic data interchanges. This ensures their systems are progressive and future-oriented, and able to foster collaboration with industry.

At present, exports from many countries have been impacted by lockdowns, short turn-around times or difficulties in supply chain management. These facts could have an impact on compliance structures in companies, reinforcing the importance of licensing officials paying careful attention.

On the enforcement side, it is reassuring to know that a network of experienced experts in the areas of inspection, investigation and prosecution are in place to prevent violations on a case-by-case basis, and to focus on illegal transactions and criminal behaviour by would-be procurers of MTCR controlled items.

With continued technological developments, on top of changes in procurement practices related to sensitive technologies, MTCR experts continue to implement good practice gathered from previous expert meetings, including from presentations and discussions in that setting.

To all our MTCR colleagues and supporters all over the world, please remain safe and healthy.

Matthias Classen, IEM Chair and Bjørn Anders, IEM Co-Chair
Stefan Woll, LEEM Chair and Dennis Leenman, LEEM Co-Chair



MTCR OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Regime remains committed to engagement with non-members and relevant organisations. Below are some of the highlights of recent activities - but for more information about the MTCR and the MTCR Chair's outreach activities please keep an eye on [this section](#) of the website and on the Regime's twitter account: @MTCR_Chair

1540 Workshop, Xiamen, China - October 2019

MTCR Chair Ambassador Dell Higgle gave a presentation on the Regime at a Training Course for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia-Pacific Region in Xiamen, China. This was an excellent opportunity to highlight the ways in which the MTCR and UNSCR 1540 complement and reinforce each other. We were delighted to have the opportunity to address Asia-Pacific delegates there and to extend our insights into developments in the region.

We also took the opportunity of the presence in Xiamen of senior-level Chinese officials to meet with them bilaterally and convey the Regime's interest in renewing contact on MTCR issues with China.



Asian Export Control Seminar, Tokyo, Japan - February 2020

The MTCR was also represented at the Asian Export Control Seminar in Tokyo in February 2020. This was a valuable opportunity to engage with a wide range of non-MTCR partners to further raise awareness of the MTCR and its work. The seminar was well-attended and interactive and it was encouraging to see such clear interest by participants in export controls and the work of international export control regimes including the MTCR.

Outreach to Israel - March 2020

Our visit to Israel on 5 March was the first formal outreach mission under the New Zealand Chair. The Chair was joined in Israel by the TEM Chair as well as representatives from a number of MTCR partner countries.

The MTCR has a long history of fruitful engagement with Israel and this visit was part of an established sequence with them. The ongoing value of discussions was highlighted during meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Defense Export Controls Agency.





HYPERSONICS

New Zealand funded a table-top exercise hosted by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva on 19 September 2019. The exercise built on a prior study, funded by Poland, Switzerland and the UK, and explored the implications of hypersonic weapons for international stability and strategic arms control. A range of government representatives and independent experts worked through two hypothetical crisis scenarios involving interrelated strategic technologies.

The exercise's goal was to facilitate discussion and understanding about hypersonic weapons and their potential dynamics in crises, their possible relationship with existing systems and the nature of

the arms control measures that may be useful in reducing their potential risks. The findings of the exercise were subsequently explored during a widely-attended side event organised by New Zealand during the Auckland MTCR Plenary.

A report on the table-top exercise is available [here](#).



UPCOMING CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The MTCR relies not only on its participating states to implement its provisions, but also seeks to improve non-proliferation efforts by active outreach to partner countries and non-partners, including practical assistance to prevent the proliferation of WMD delivery systems. As a tireless advocate for disarmament and non-proliferation, Austria will continue the determined work of our predecessors to counter proliferation and strengthen the MTCR. Austria takes over the chairmanship from New Zealand at a critical time politically and technologically. Rising global tensions have heightened the interest in acquisition and development of missiles, rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles, both by states and non-state actors.

Rapid technological development brings new materials and knowledge that have to be considered in non-proliferation policies. The proliferation of technology becomes increasingly challenging to control, both in terms of concrete goods and components, as well as knowledge knowingly or unwittingly being transferred. These new developments require concerted efforts by the MTCR in order to be effective. Austria intends therefore to look into these developments during our term at the helm of the MTCR.

In recent years, there has been an unprecedented surge in interest and activity in space. Formerly confined to a small number of costly large-scale space programmes by governments, space launches and satellite technology are becoming ever more accessible through new delivery systems and technological progress. Private actors have firmly established themselves in the market. These changes come with their own challenges. There is substantial technological overlap between the technology used to transport satellites into space and that used to deliver WMD. As ever more actors develop space launchers, Austria, a committed practitioner of effective multilateralism, will engage with other relevant international bodies. As the Executive Secretariat of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOB), Austria is in an excellent position also to continue the engagement between the two mechanisms.

In our contemporary world, freely accessible information determines the perception of groupings and policy more than ever. Therefore efforts to better inform the public about the work of the MTCR will continue during the Austrian chairmanship. It is too early to judge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the MTCR. But we have to take into account that proliferation programmes will continue and our task is not becoming easier. Austria wants to thank New Zealand for its excellent cooperation and support in the preparation of our chairmanship. This will facilitate a seamless transition in October. We look forward to welcoming all partners to the Plenary Meeting from 15 to 19 March 2021 in Innsbruck

Thomas Hajnoczi