

Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) 20th Anniversary: Joint Statement of the 2023 High-Level Political Meeting (HLPM)

30 May 2023, Jeju

The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) was launched on 31 May, 2003, in response to the growing threat posed by the illicit proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials to and from States and non-State actors. Since then, more than 100 countries have expressed their political commitment to the PSI by endorsing the Statement of Interdiction Principles, which States follow consistent within their capacity, national legal authorities, and relevant international law and frameworks. The PSI remains a flexible, voluntary global initiative that enhances individual and collective capabilities to take appropriate and timely actions to address fast-moving proliferation threats, including interdicting or disrupting proliferation-related transfers.

We, the PSI-endorsing States indicated below^{*}, on the important occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Initiative, reaffirm our commitment to preventing the spread of WMD, their delivery systems, and related materials, and to working together to ensure that the PSI remains an effective tool in countering these serious threats to international peace and security, and therefore:

Reviewing Twenty Years of PSI Activities and Achievements

Acknowledge the important contribution made by the PSI in strengthening global nonproliferation and counter-proliferation efforts, especially through successful interdiction of illicit WMD-related transfers, preventing sensitive materials and technology from reaching proliferators, while adapting to new proliferation trends;

Commend and continue to encourage the efforts of endorsing States to ensure a robust and sustainable initiative by continuing to host a regular schedule of PSI exercises and other events and establish, where appropriate, regional event rotations among PSI-endorsing States, including capacity-building activities that facilitate information-sharing on threats and exchanges of best practices among participating States;

Welcome the progress made by endorsing States, working both individually and cooperatively, to strengthen national and international authorities for action, including through assessment and adoption of national laws and regulations, accession to international instruments on counter-proliferation, and full and effective implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, such as Resolution 1540 (2004);

Recognize the importance of strengthening the four PSI Critical Capabilities and Practices (CCP) areas identified at the 2013 PSI 10th Anniversary High-Level Political Meeting in Poland, namely (i) prohibiting proliferation-related conduct, (ii) inspection and identification, (iii) seizure and disposition, and (iv) rapid

* Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

decision making, and **further recognize** the value of the CCP library as a collection of tools and resources readily available for the endorsing States to enhance their counter-proliferation capabilities;

Also recognize that the PSI contributes to raising awareness of proliferation threats through expanding strategic communications within and beyond the PSI community and thereby reminding proliferators that a strong community of action exists to counter their attempts;

Addressing the Changing International Security Environment and New Nonproliferation Challenges

Acknowledge that nonproliferation and counter-proliferation efforts require greater awareness and collaboration amongst endorsing States in response to the recent challenges to the global strategic and security environment;

Underscore the continued importance of the PSI and the need for increased cooperation in countering the evolving threats posed by WMD proliferation, such as the development of nuclear and ballistic missiles programs in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions and other proliferation-related activities inconsistent with existing obligations and commitments;

Stress the need for the PSI to address new and emerging proliferation practices, including proliferation finance involving cryptocurrency, intangible technology transfers, and the increasing sophistication of proliferators' tactics to circumvent international law;

Commit to considering the impact and challenges posed by the evolution of technologies, taking into account that new critical and emerging technologies, such as 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing, can create additional nonproliferation and counter-proliferation challenges;

Exploring the Ways Forward

Affirm that the Statement of Interdiction Principles, which provides the framework for increasing interdiction capabilities consistent with national and international legal authorities, and which has helped guide PSI-endorsing States' activities over the past 20 years, remains a critical framework for guiding the activities of the Initiative and its endorsing States;

Commit to continuing outreach activities to expand the number of PSI-endorsing States, given that each new State brings additional political commitments, opportunities, resources, expertise, and ideas to enhance the Initiative and its goals;

Also commit to enhancing PSI capacity-building activities, promoting training and coordination among PSI-endorsing States, and strengthening critical interdiction capabilities (CCP) through constructive dialogue across all regions;

Further commit to considering within the framework of the Statement of Interdiction Principle the impact and challenges posed by the evolution of critical and emerging technologies and proliferation practices, as well as the changing security environment, and to identify how the PSI can best respond to such challenges;

Encourage all endorsing States to work toward more enhanced cooperation and coordination to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PSI activities and to share, promote, or emulate good practices within the PSI, such as the formalized annual hosting and rotation of regional events;

Decide to work on an action plan for the implementation of this Joint Statement consistent with our PSI commitment, authorities, and resources and to build upon the ongoing efforts that have been carried out to implement the Joint Statements from the past High-Level Political Meetings of 2013 and 2018. //End//