



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs

# The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC)

Ambassador Inga M. W. Nyhamar

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# What is the HCoC?

**HCoC aims to reduce the destabilizing effects of ballistic missile activities, through transparency and confidence-building**

- signed and entered into force in 2002
- politically binding
- fills a gap in international law
- a reflection of the belief that multilateralism remains a useful tool to curb WMD proliferation

# Text of the HCoC

## Preamble

### The subscribing states:

- Reaffirming their commitment to the United Nations Charter;
- Stressing the role and responsibility of the United Nations in the field of international peace and security;
- Recalling the widespread concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- Recognizing the increasing regional and global security challenges caused, inter alia, by the ongoing proliferation of Ballistic Missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction;
- Seeking to promote the security of all states by fostering mutual trust through the implementation of political and diplomatic measures;
- Having taken into account regional and national security considerations;
- Believing that an International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation will contribute to the process of strengthening existing national and international security arrangements and disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and mechanisms;
- Recognising that subscribing States may wish to consider engaging in co-operative measures among themselves to this end;

# Commitments

- To curb and prevent the proliferation of WMD delivery systems
- To provide pre-launch notifications
- To submit an annual declaration



# Benefits

- Access to information exchanges that increase confidence, trust and security
- Political commitment to non-proliferation
- Access to multilateral policy-discussions on delivery systems of WMD



## More benefits...

- Very limited administrative burden
- Simplified annual reports for states without BM-programmes
- Forbids neither the possession of ballistic missiles nor the development of space activities for peaceful ends

# Subscription

- Voluntary and open to all states
- All free of charge
- Subscription done by notifying the Code's Executive Secretariat at the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [hcoc@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:hcoc@bmeia.gv.at)

# The HCoC and the UN

- Biannual UNGA resolutions in support of the HCoC
- Latest resolution from 2018 (A/RES/73/49) received **171** votes in favour
  - *Welcomes* subscriptions as a practical step against the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery
  - *Welcomes* the universalisation of the HCoC



Seventy-third session  
Agenda item 101 (y)

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 5 December 2018**

[on the report of the First Committee (A/73/510 and A/73/510/Corr.1)]

**73/49. The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation**

*The General Assembly,*

*Concerned* about the increasing regional and global security challenges caused, inter alia, by the ongoing proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction,

*Bearing in mind* the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its role and responsibility in the field of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Emphasizing* the significance of regional and international efforts to prevent and curb comprehensively the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as a contribution to international peace and security,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation on 25 November 2002 at The Hague,<sup>1</sup> and convinced that the Code of Conduct will contribute to enhancing transparency and confidence among States,

*Recalling* its resolutions 59/91 of 3 December 2004, 60/62 of 8 December 2005, 63/64 of 2 December 2008, 65/73 of 8 December 2010, 67/42 of 3 December 2012, 69/44 of 2 December 2014 and 71/33 of 5 December 2016 entitled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation",

*Recalling also* that the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and subsequent resolutions, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,



# 141 Subscribing States



Map by *Foundation pour la Recherche Strategique*

- Public website with text and description of the code, introductory video, FAQs, list of Subscribing States and links to UNGA resolutions.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with four buttons: "WHAT IS HCoC?", "SUBSCRIBING STATES", "BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS", and "RESTRICTED WEBSITE". Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC)" with a "Last update: June 2019" note. A large video player is centered on the page, displaying a play button and the HCoC logo. To the left of the video player, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Description of HCoC", "FAQ", "Text of the HCoC", "HCoC chronology", "Relevant links", "Press releases", and "How to join HCoC". Below the video player, there is a paragraph of text explaining the HCoC and its purpose, followed by another paragraph detailing the commitment of subscribing states and the number of signatories.

# Growing Momentum for HCoC



*Photo from Adoya Space Center, Norway*

# HCoC

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*the Hague Code of Conduct*

Questions?

