



*Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations unies
et des Organisations internationales à Vienne*

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

18^h Regular Meeting
Vienna, 3-4 June 2019

Statement by France
Monday June 3rd 2019

...
= *Check against delivery* =

Madam Chair,

France fully associates itself with the Statement made on behalf of the European Union. The EU remains actively engaged through the implementation of the EU Council Decision 2017/2370 adopted on 18 December 2017 that renewed the European Union's support of the Hague Code of Conduct and ballistic missile non-proliferation.

I would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

My delegation would first like to congratulate you, Ambassador Kjersti Ertresvaag ANDERSEN, on your assumption of chairmanship and assure you of its full support in the activities you will conduct with a view to universalizing the Code and reinforcing its implementation.

Our deepest appreciation also goes to Sweden, Ambassador Ann-Sophie Nilsson and her team for their active and efficient chairmanship all through the past year.



*Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations unies
et des Organisations internationales à Vienne*

We also thank the Austrian Immediate Central Contact for the essential tasks it performs in the interest of the Code. My delegation is fully conscious of the amount of work behind the smooth functioning of the executive secretariat.

Madam Chair,

The Code now has 140 subscribing States and remains to date the only multilateral instrument encompassing transparency and confidence-building measures in order to curb ballistic missile proliferation. France reiterates its strong support to the HCoC. Its contribution to international and regional security and stability is essential, now more than ever.

Our meeting takes place once again in the context of worrying developments related to the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass. Since we met last year, we have witnessed growing efforts to develop, modernize and accelerate ballistic missile programs. Ballistic missiles and related items continue to be transferred, often in breach of UN Security Council resolutions. The acquisition and use of ballistic missiles by non-State actors is particularly concerning. These trends led the G7 to adopt a declaration on illicit and/or destabilizing missile activities in April.

France is highly concerned about **DPRK**'s ballistic missiles program, which remains a threat to international peace and security. Despite the two summits held between the United States and the DPRK in 2018, which helped reduce tensions, the DPRK did not take any significant steps towards abandoning its ballistic missile program in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as required by the UN Security Council relevant resolutions. In May 2019, the DPRK launched short-range ballistic missiles, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, which require the DPRK to refrain from conducting any launch that uses ballistic missile technology. It is essential that the DPRK puts an end to any cooperation in the field of ballistic missiles and related material and technologies with



*Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations unies
et des Organisations internationales à Vienne*

third parties. France urges the DPRK to comply with UN Security Council resolutions demanding that it cease all activities linked to a ballistic missile program. Effective, coordinated action by the whole international community with a view to robust implementation of international sanctions is needed to achieve the goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea.

In the **Middle East**, France is deeply concerned by the high level of proliferation of ballistic missiles and repeated use of ballistic missiles in the region, which continue to fuel crises and destabilize the region.

Iran continues its development of an advanced ballistic programme. Its ballistic missile launches doubled in 2018 over 2017. The launching of missiles capable of delivering a payload of more than 500 kg over a distance of more than 300 km is inconsistent with the resolution 2231 and has profound destabilizing effects in the Middle East. Iran already has large operational missile capabilities and is seeking to increase their ranges, potentially above 2000km, putting Europe within range. Meanwhile, there are indications, including from the UN Panel of experts on Yemen, that Iran is transferring missiles and related technologies towards non-state actors in the region. Such transfers are prohibited by UNSCRs 2231, 1701, 2216 and 1540. The proliferation of sensitive technologies, logistical and financial support to States and non-State actors in the Middle East in the field of ballistic missiles must cease immediately.

In the same region, **Syria** remains a persistent cause for concern. The efforts by the Damascus regime to refurbish its ballistic arsenal through an increasingly complex acquisition network, its use of ballistic missiles against its civilian population require a determined action by the international community.

Madam Chair,

Against this background, we must seek to intensify our efforts to strengthen the HCoC, by ensuring its effective implementation and by



*Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations unies
et des Organisations internationales à Vienne*

broadening support to the instrument. We commend the constant efforts from successive Chairs to work towards universalization of the instrument and warmly welcome the latest subscription to the Code by Togo. We hope this will open the way for more subscriptions to the Code in the year ahead. France stands ready to assist in any manner to contribute to these universalization efforts. In this regard, we support the work carried out by the EU and the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique to promote the universalization of the Code.

In this context, France regrets the apparent lapse in implementation of the commitment enshrined in the Code of conduct related to the pre-notification of launches. The implementation of the TCBMs is all the more important today as the security environment is tense and the non-proliferation architecture is challenged.

Additionally, my delegation wants to stress that adhering to the Code by no means limits the right of every State to the free access, exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. France therefore encourages all Subscribing States to become parties to the three UN Conventions listed in paragraph 3 a) of the Code.

Finally, the French delegation is of the view that the deepening the relationship between the Code of Conduct and the United Nations should be pursued. We are pleased that Resolution 73/49 was adopted in the 71st UN General Assembly session with 171 votes, which is the highest support for any such resolution since 2004.

I thank you Madam Chair./.