

## **6. Documents from Other Arrangements**

Although the CWC and the BWC are at the heart of the international regime governing the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons, other arrangements complement and strengthen the norm against the hostile use of chemistry. These arrangements, which range from informal groupings to more formally-constituted groups of States, tend to entail collective agreement to take or renounce certain actions to prevent CBW proliferation. These arrangements are initiated by groups of like-minded States, rather than by widespread international consensus among States, as multilateral treaties are.

### **6.1 Australia Group**

The Australia Group, which began work in 1984/85, seeks to harmonize supply-side controls on dual use technology, including equipment, chemical agents and biological pathogens, applicable to chemical and biological warfare, by promoting common standards for the formation and implementation of national export-control policies. The Australia Group was one of the earliest plurilateral initiatives on non-proliferation, arising as a direct result of the discovery that the chemical weapons that Iraq used in its war with Iran were manufactured using imported 'dual use' commodities and know-how.

Its membership and range of activities have expanded over the years, most notably in the early 1990s, when it extended its scope to include export controls on materials and technologies relevant to biological weapons. Regarding potential proliferation of chemical weapons, the Group now maintains lists of CW precursors, in addition to a list of dual-use chemical manufacturing facilities and equipment and related technology equipment. Updated versions of the two lists are included in this section of the *Resource Guide*. The Australia Group lists form the basis of the CBW-related sections of the European Union's dual-use goods regime, and they have been adopted as the basis for national export controls by many non-participating countries. The Australia Group now has 40 participating countries, plus the European Commission. All Australia Group participants are States Parties to both the BWC and CWC.

### **6.2 Group of Eight Nations / Global Partnership**

The Group of Eight Nations (G8) comprises eight major industrialised nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US) whose leaders meet annually to discuss issues of mutual concern. At its 2002 summit meeting in Kananaskis, Canada, the G8 launched the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. The Global Partnership originally served to attract and provide a framework for international financing of the destruction of chemical weapons, the dismantling of decommissioned nuclear submarines, the disposition of fissile materials and the employment of former weapons scientists, initially in Russia. The Global Partnership has since broadened its objectives, membership and geographical scope. At the 2011 Summit in Deauville, France, participating states agreed to extend the partnership beyond 2012 with a focus on areas such as nuclear and radiological security, biological safety and security, scientist engagement, implementation of 1540 and limiting WMD knowledge proliferation. At recent summit meetings, the G8 leaders have included references to the CWC in their communiqués; most recently in 2012, expressing their determination 'to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime, including by promoting the implementation and universalization of all relevant multilateral treaties and arrangements that help to prevent and combat proliferation'. The full text of the G8 Declaration on Nonproliferation and Disarmament for 2012 is included in the *Resource Guide*.