

# FINAL REPORT

## EUROPEAN NUCLEAR CITIES INITIATIVE (ENCI) CONFERENCE

Brussels, Centre Borchette, 36 rue Froissart

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*IWG Executive Secretariat*

The international community faces no greater challenge in the twenty-first century than halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to states and dangerous sub-national actors. In recognition of this threat – and arguably prompted by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 in the United States – the newly formed G8 Global Partnership Initiative, launched at the Kananaskis Summit, against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in June 2002 is a major step towards meeting this challenge. The G8 Leaders have committed themselves to “preventing terrorists or those that harbour them from acquiring or developing nuclear, chemical, radiological and biological weapons; missiles; and related materials, equipment and technology.” They pledged up to \$20 billion over the next 10 years to support projects, initially in Russia, to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counter-terrorism, and nuclear safety (including environmental issues).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the international community has been engaged in a cooperative effort with Russia to limit the potential spread of WMD from its’ extensive nuclear weapons complex principally located within the Russian closed nuclear cities (RNCs). The downsizing and conversion of the Russian nuclear weapons complex is a major international security risk and, as such, is the initial focus of the G8 Global Partnership Initiative.

The lectures given at the ENCI conference were based around eight topical sessions covering the G8 Global Partnership Initiative and its non-proliferation strategy; the status of various conversion initiatives within the Russian Nuclear Cities; European projects; the ISTC Program; the ENCI Web demo; roadmaps of projects to accelerate the stabilization and conversion of the RNWC; and, a definition of new criteria to select Russian conversion projects. The Conference was well attended by leading academics, policy analysts and government officials from various institutions, programs, government departments and the EC, and were representative of many nationalities. The participant list will be attached as an annex to this document, as will the presentations given by the participants when the IWG Secretariat receives them.

The main conclusions and talking points discussed at the conference centred around six main issues.

- Patronage to partnership: the title of the G8 Initiative is important as it emphasises the *partnership* status of the agreement. Practical cooperation with Russia should take the form of a true partnership, replacing the donor/recipient approach of the last decade. Russia should be treated as a security and

scientific partner rather than a client, which would better serve long-term threat reduction interests. Such an approach would entail for more responsibility and openness on behalf of Russia and closer collaboration and integration with the Partnership countries.

- Indigenous Self-Sustaining Solutions: given improving economic conditions in Russia, emphasis should be on self-sustaining solutions to WMD problems so that external assistance can be reduced and phased out. This will require preparing Russia to become capable on its own, after assistance has ended, of ensuring security at WMD-related facilities remaining after downsizing. Through a true partnership Russia could acquire the experience and expertise necessary to successfully attain autonomy over its non-proliferation and conversion efforts. Commercialisation and retraining are key tools needed to downsize the Russian WMD infrastructure without increasing proliferation risks and must therefore be fostered and implemented.
- Differentiation between worker types: a major proliferation problem stems from the possible brain drain of weapons scientists from Russia, as well as from the excess weapons technical workers employed within the nuclear weapons complex. To combat this problem, alternative employment within the civilian sector must be found or created to divert efforts from weapons development– estimates of the number of jobs needed venture as far as 5000 for each RNC. However, employment programs need distinct strategies for different worker types – short-term solutions and generic strategies cannot solve the problem of employment. Employment strategies should be tailored to the different types of workers. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for more funding allocated to training and infrastructure.
- Region-specific programs: must realise and respond to the differing needs and conditions in regional areas by targeting each complex and city based on its unique characteristics. Efforts and strategies ought to be decided on a case-by-case basis to identify areas ripe for commercialisation within particular locations. Thus projects should be locally appropriate and led.
- Roadmap for G8 and ENCIWeb: a major problem obstructing current conversion projects over the last decade has been the diverse aims of the countries involved in bilateral conversion programmes, and this remains a problem that affects the G8 Global Partnership Initiative. Given the magnitude and diversity of the challenge, this inclination of different governments to focus on different objectives should not be allowed to decrease the effect of the overall effort and aims. One solution is a more cooperative multi-lateral approach which is less sensitive to individual state interests and priorities and also avoids the addition problem of duplicative efforts. However, in realistic terms, multilateralism is not acceptable to some countries involved and thus efforts should concentrate upon finding a middle ground that enjoys the benefits of a multilateral approach but which is acceptable to all. In order to better effect the conversion efforts, it is necessary to create a “roadmap” of projects that would more easily identify technology and alternative civilian uses for it, and to meet the G8 Initiative . A roadmap may more easily identify in-house research produced within the RNCs that have true commercial potential and could be successfully converted into civilian applications.

Furthermore, such a roadmap could also prioritise programs and projects as well as facilitate coordination between various groups. In the past initiatives have often failed due to misreading the markets, therefore innovations such as ENCI Web are important in identifying markets and partners. ENCI Web is a promising tool for matching potential sellers and buyers and may facilitate the creation of business partnerships through a market-pull approach.

- Project selection criteria (business professionals): commercialisation projects may stand a better chance of success if they were demand-driven and an existing market utilized. So far, efforts at commercialisation have often met with only limited success as a result of erroneous understandings of the market. One possible solution to this problem is to use business professionals who can properly understand and identify the business market through market analysis, and more effectively target technologies within RNCs to that market. Business professionals can detect and sell technology to potential clients, whereas such tasks are not appropriate to the skills of researchers who have no experience or business acumen.

Whilst the G8 Global Partnership initiative will inject desperately needed capital into the non-proliferation and disarmament efforts underway in Russia, the initiative is widely regarded as the “last chance”. Unless the resources offered are mobilised effectively and with success, further international aid may not be forthcoming. Thus it is imperative that the \$20 billion pledged by the G8 Leaders be used wisely and effectively, and the political will and cooperation needed to achieve this actively encouraged.