

# Preventing CW and BW Proliferation:

## The Australia Group

24<sup>th</sup> Asian Export Control Seminar  
Tokyo, 21-23 February 2017

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Representing the Australia Group



## What is the Australia Group?

- The Australia Group (AG) is an informal forum of 42 participants, which through the harmonisation of export controls is seeking to ensure their exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
- Help States meet their international obligations:
  - Chemical Weapons Convention;
  - Biological Weapons Convention; and
  - United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.



# Australia Group Origins



- In 1984 the world discovered Iraq had produced and used chemical weapons.
- Australia Group was created in 1985 to stop legitimate trade being diverted to chemical weapons production.
- In the early 1990s UN investigations discovered that Iraq had a biological weapons program.
- Consequently, export controls were expanded to include biological weapons.



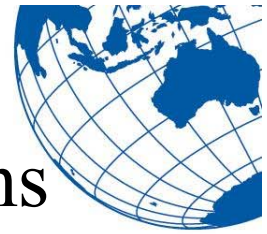
# Proliferation Is Still Occurring



- Examples:
  - Syria
  - Da'esh (Islamic State)



# Australia Group Operations



- Regular meetings
  - Information Exchange
  - Implementation Exchange
  - Enforcement Exchange
  - New and Emerging Technologies Technical Experts Meeting
  - Plenary
- Consensus based



AG Plenary, Perth June 2015



# Australia Group Controls



- Guidelines
- Control Lists and Dual-use Items Lists
  - Chemical weapons precursors;
  - Human and Animal pathogens and toxins;
  - Plant pathogens;
  - Dual-use chemical manufacturing equipment and related technology; and
  - Dual-use biological equipment and related technology.



# Promote Export Controls



- The Australia Group encourages all countries to implement measures similar to AG controls to limit the spread of CBW.



# Harmonising Controls and Enforcement



- Each AG Country has national controls:
  - Legislation (includes “catch-all”);
  - Implementation (e.g. licences); and
  - Enforcement (e.g. customs inspections).



# Australia Group Engagement



- Engagement with:
  - non-members countries
  - industry
  - academia
  - civil society
- Highlighting the threat of state and non-state actors acquiring chemical/biological weapons.

[www.australiagroup.net](http://www.australiagroup.net)

**Australia Group  
Common Control List Handbook**  
Volume II: Chemical and Biological Weapons-Related Common Control Lists

Statement by the Chair of the 2015 Australia Group Plenary

5 June 2015

The 41 Member Countries of the Australia Group (AG) and the European Union marked the Group's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Plenary meeting in Perth this week. The Australia Group was formed after the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq War. Its work aims to counter the spread of technologies and materials used for chemical and biological weapons (CBW) through coordinated export controls, information sharing and outreach.

During the meeting, Members noted that export controls facilitated trade by preventing the diversion of legitimate trade towards weapons of mass destruction. Members emphasised that importers of proliferation-sensitive materials and technology also need to implement export controls, in order to provide confidence to suppliers that such materials and technology would not be re-exported for the benefit of proliferators. Export controls also help countries implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Among the measures Australia Group member countries agreed to take to strengthen CBW non-proliferation were:

- Intensifying the Australia Group focus on emerging technologies that can be used for chemical and biological weapons.
- Expanding outreach to non-members as well as industry and academia to highlight the threat posed by state and non-state actors seeking to acquire the know-how to develop chemical and biological weapons.

Consideration was given to the interest in membership from specific countries and to the group's approach to future membership questions.

Foreign Affairs and Trade



## Denials



- The Australia Group aims to ensure export controls do not hinder legitimate trade and to legitimise trade in sensitive items.
- There are very few Australia Group export denials.
- Export denials:
  - national decision,
  - based on the AG Guidelines and Control Lists,
  - information shared within AG,
  - “no-undercut” policy.

Foreign Affairs and Trade



# Challenges



- Technological developments
  - Emerging biotechnology
- Investigations
- Methods of trade (e.g. internet, eBay)
- Intangible transfers of technology (e.g. electronic transfer of knowledge)
- Terrorism
- The use of CW in Syria and Iraq



# Australia Group Plenary 2016



- The 2016 Plenary decided to focus on:
  - emerging technologies;
  - chemical and biological terrorism;
  - intangible technology transfers; and
  - expand outreach to non-AG countries, industry and academia.



# Australia Group Intersessional 2017



- The AG Intersessional was held last week in Buenos Aires and the key takeaways were:
  - New and Evolving Technologies Technical Experts Meeting.
  - Implementation Meeting.
  - Australia Group Dialogue including outreach to a number of Latin American countries.



## The Australia Group in Asia



- Many countries in the region already implement or are looking to implement AG or AG-type controls.
- Exporting countries look positively on recipient states that have export control arrangements.
- High-technology companies are more likely to invest in states that have robust export control arrangements.
- Encourage countries to become AG adherents.
- The AG has undertaken outreach to a number of Asian countries and economies:
  - 2016: Hong Kong and Taipei.
  - 2015: Kazakhstan, Thailand and Vietnam.
  - 2014: Indonesia, India, Singapore, Myanmar, Taipei and the Philippines.



# Australia Group Assistance



- The Australia Group Chair and Secretariat can assist with:
  - Providing information about the Australia Group.
  - Facilitating specific requests for practical technical assistance.
  - Facilitating contacts with export control experts in Australia Group countries.



# Australia Group contact



- Australia Group Secretariat
  - through any Australian Embassy
  - [annette.berriman@dfat.gov.au](mailto:annette.berriman@dfat.gov.au)
- Australia Group website
  - [www.australiagroup.net](http://www.australiagroup.net)
  - in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Russian and Spanish

