

**Working Party on the Future of the ISTC  
Interim Report to the Governing Board  
May 21, 2010**

In accordance with the decision of Governing Board 50, a Working Party of officials from Canada, the European Union, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United States met on May 21, 2010, in Moscow, under the co-chairmanship of the United States and the Russian Federation, to continue discussions on options for the future of the multilateral cooperation currently under the purview of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) now headquartered in Moscow. The Working Party had met previously on March 24, 2010, in Moscow.

The Working Party reached agreement on the following points:

- The ISTC has been an outstanding success in achieving its original objective in Russia and the other states who are party to this Agreement, as outlined in the Summary Report of the Executive Director prepared for the May 21, 2010 Working Party.
- At the same time, a number of global problems require our ongoing attention.
- Accordingly, the focus of multilateral cooperation should shift to addressing such problems, for the benefit of the Parties and the international community.
- Such cooperation should increasingly emphasize research & development to produce new technologies, focusing on innovation, modernization, and the commercialization of new research results to create jobs, diversify participants' economies, and make them more competitive.
- Such cooperation should also include joint work to deepen scientist engagement to address global challenges.
- Among these global challenges and opportunities requiring multilateral attention are:
  - Advanced energy technologies, climate change and disaster mitigation and adaptation, preservation of the environment, nanotechnology, information technology, bio-safety and biotechnology, and disease prevention and cure;
  - Basic and applied research in areas like high-energy physics and lasers;

- Developing new detection technologies and verification methods to strengthen global nonproliferation efforts, and to facilitate the safe, secure, and safeguarded use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;
  - Developing more effective cooperation with international organizations like the IAEA and CERN; and
  - Other scientific and technical areas of mutual interest as may be identified.
- The utilization of a multilateral organization would best serve to foster the kinds of science and technology cooperation that would help address these problems.
- Such cooperation should be based on mutual respect and take the form of collaboration among equal partners.
- Partner countries should consider how the funds necessary for such cooperation might be made available in a spirit of full partnership in order to attract the best scientists and the best projects from both government and private sectors.
- The cooperation envisioned for the future would require discussion among the Parties with three goals: emphasis on innovation, scientist engagement and meeting the legal and legislative needs of the Parties.
- Such cooperation would also require revision of the 1992 Agreement.
- While any discussions of future cooperation are taking place, the provisions of the existing ISTC Agreement should continue to be applied during the transitional period.
- The geographic scope of such cooperation should include the current ISTC partners; possible inclusion of scientists and technical experts from other countries could be the subject of future discussion.

Accordingly, the Working Party recommends to the Governing Board that it approve the conclusions enumerated above and transmit them to the Parties for possible implementation.