



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

**MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM
SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO
PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

**MOSCOW, RUSSIA
DECEMBER 10, 2009**

I am very pleased to send a special greeting on the 15th Anniversary of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow. I would especially like to congratulate and thank the ISTC's Secretariat for organizing this signal event and the Russian Federation for hosting it in its dynamic capital.

As we look back at the cooperation the ISTC has fostered over the past fifteen years, I commend the Center, and those who have supported it, for its accomplishments: over twenty six hundred research projects that have engaged more than ninety thousand scientists and engineers in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, and Tajikistan. These projects have played a vital role in strengthening the participating scientific institutes and laboratories. The Center has enabled them to make important contributions in a variety of fields from fighting tuberculosis to improving nuclear safety and security. Over its relatively short history, the ISTC's work has meant progress toward solutions to a number of international problems to the benefit of the participating nations and of the international community as a whole.

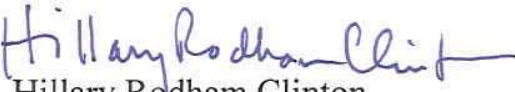
Progress toward achieving the original objective at the heart of the ISTC Agreement has been a resounding success. The United States and its ISTC Partners consider that that challenge has been effectively met. At the same time, we recognize that the landscape, internationally and in the countries where the Center has been active, has undergone profound changes. Our concerns about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, the environment, disease, energy security, and a host of other problems persist and, in some cases, have intensified, and new threats have emerged in other parts of the world.

The United States believes that the ISTC mission can evolve to fit a changing environment, and the Center can become an extremely valuable tool in our joint efforts to address these global challenges. Given its proven potential, the Moscow Center can now become a nexus for renewed and refocused engagement between and among scientists in the current member countries and in other interested countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and beyond.

With that in mind, I want to convey our commitment to help develop a reinvigorated ISTC and, together with our partners, to agree on concrete steps to that end.

We need the ISTC to be an instrument to help support basic and applied scientific research, protect the environment, improve public health, seek new and more efficient energy sources, and promote nuclear safety and security. In the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, we need the ISTC to help develop enhanced nonproliferation technologies and approaches for use by participating states and the international community.

Congratulations again to the participants in today's celebration for all that your cooperation has accomplished.


Hillary Rodham Clinton

