

**STATEMENT OF
THE EMBASSY OF CANADA
AT THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ISTC) CELEBRATION
DECEMBER 10, 2009
MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Дамы и господа

It is a great pleasure to be here today at the 15th anniversary of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC).

The honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, unfortunately, could not attend this important event. He asked me to transmit to you his congratulations on the results that have been achieved by the ISTC.

I would also like to thank ISTC for having invited me to this event, and thank our hosts and all those who have organized this event.

Canada acceded to the ISTC on 1 March 2004 under the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, an initiative launched at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis in 2002.

Through the ISTC, the Global Partnership Program provides opportunities to the former weapons scientists and their institutes to become involved in sustainable, civilian employment by funding research projects and capacity-building programs, and provides accountable and effective leadership at the Science Centres.

To date, the Global Partnership Program has contributed over \$65 million toward activities at the ISTC, including funding for 134 research projects engaging nearly 2500 former weapons scientists, and various capacity-building activities aimed at developing long-term collaboration between Canadian and Russian and CIS experts as well as supporting sustainable re-employment.

But this great work undertaken at the ISTC would have never been possible without the collaboration and excellent working relationship that exist between the member states, and especially the Russian Federation, that we want to thank especially for hosting the ISTC. Canada and Russia have always been able to work jointly on the advancement of common goals.

Canadian chairmanship of the G8 will be an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to the threat reduction activities, to build the future of the global partnership, and to continue the existing fruitful cooperation between its members.

Thank you and have a great celebration.