



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Annual meeting of subscribing States to the Hague Code of Conduct
against Ballistic Missile Proliferation**

**Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As delivered



28 May 2026
Vienna

Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for extending an invitation to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to attend the annual regular meeting of the subscribing States to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC).

The Code remains a unique and important tool for transparency and confidence-building. Such tools are particularly relevant in an international environment in which ballistic and other types of missiles are playing an increasingly significant role in conflicts and in which there are no treaty-based limits on the proliferation, acquisition or use of missiles.

Through its voluntary measures, the Code continues to provide a key contribution to increasing trust and decreasing the risk of misinterpretation. Pre-launch notifications and annual declarations represent tangible measures to this end, while the Code's annual meetings and outreach activities furthermore provide valuable opportunities to engage among and with subscribing as well as non-subscribing States, and to exchange on the Code's role in addressing new and evolving developments and trends.

The role of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs), including instruments such as the HCoC, remains a matter of priority for the work of my Office. Moreover, the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters is presently exploring best practices and lessons and is seeking to identify recommendations for the implementation and further strengthening of existing TCBM tools, as well as opportunities for the development of new ones, including in the area of new and emerging technologies.

Finally, my Office is also investing in strengthening access to free learning on international peace and security issues related to missiles and other emerging technologies. The annual meeting is an opportunity to share more information on this and related resources.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs remains at your disposal in any way that we can be helpful, and I wish you a successful meeting.