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CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ISTC PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Preamble to the Agreement Establishing an International Science and Technology Center, Article III (iii) and (iv) and Article VII of that Agreement provide for broad participation in the ISTC's activities:

ISTC PREAMBLE

“Realizing that the success of the Center will require strong support from governments, foundations, academic and scientific institutions, and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations...”

AGREEMENT: ARTICLE III (iii) and (iv)

“The Center is authorized to establish appropriate forms of cooperation with governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (which for the purposes of this Agreement include the private sector), and programs;”

“Receive funds or donations from governments, inter-governmental ... and non-governmental organizations;”

AGREEMENT: ARTICLE VII

“Projects approved by the Governing Board may be financed or supported by the Center, or by governments, intergovernmental organizations, or non-governmental organizations.”

Each Party has identified governmental sources for funding ISTC projects and activities. An ISTC Partner is any legal entity, governmental, inter-governmental or non-governmental, which contributes to finance or support ISTC activities under a contractual framework through sources other than the above designated governmental sources.

The Governing Board, which has fiduciary responsibility for the ISTC, must be confident that all Center activities are consistent with the ISTC Agreement and associated documents. Therefore, there must be sufficient information available on projects that take place under the auspices of the ISTC, as well as the participants and Partners in ISTC projects.

This information provides the basis for the Parties and Board to confirm that all project activities meet ISTC eligibility criteria, namely:

- Involvement of weapons scientists in civilian projects for peaceful purposes;
- Concurrence of the government on whose territory the project will take place; and
- Agreement to access for financial auditing and technical monitoring.

The Center has procedures in place to provide this information. The Instructions for Proposal Preparation require key information relating to the eligibility criteria, which is found in the various forms that are submitted as part of the proposal package. This includes information on weapons

scientists to be involved in the project, the concurrence of the institutes involved, and their commitment to abide by ISTC rules and regulations (including access for financial auditing and technical monitoring). Procedures also are in place for obtaining government concurrence either before the project is submitted to the Center or after.

Likewise, the Procedures for Expanding Participation in ISTC Activities provide details on how Partners are introduced and approved by the ISTC Governing Board. These procedures involve a review by the sponsoring Party of the financial and nonproliferation reliability of the Partner.

There is considerable room for flexibility within established ISTC procedures to structure project activities in a way that are both responsible and responsive to the needs of new Partners, particularly those from private industry. ***The key element in differentiating project procedures is the source of funding.***

For project activities that request full or partial funding from the ISTC (e.g. contributions of the EU, Japan, Norway, or the U.S.), the normal procedures that have been in place for the past several years continue to apply. These procedures provide the Governing Board and funding Parties sufficient information on which to make technical judgments on which they can assess whether a project meets ISTC criteria and whether there is interest in committing funds to support project activities.

In cases where funding is provided by a Partner, the Parties may assume that the Partner has already undertaken an extensive technical assessment and that further detailed technical review is not necessary. This eliminates the most time-consuming part of project review for most Parties. The Parties do, however, need to review Partner-funded projects to confirm that they are consistent with overall ISTC nonproliferation objectives and meet the eligibility criteria. This can be accomplished through an abbreviated review process. The normal submission, review, and approval process is well defined; the Partner process is described in the attached documents.