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Role of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in World Politics (MTCR): An Overview

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Abstract

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) had been playing important role in the world politics. It is a multilateral export control regime. The voluntary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) aims to restrict the expansion of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.

I would like to find out the role of MTCR in world politics. The MTCR partners had been taking initiatives to outreach their functions before the non-member MTCR states in the world. The member states provide their functions and information to the non-partners through dialogue and outreach. They are continuously trying to establish the policy of the prevention of proliferation of human destruction weapons.

The MTCR was created to minimize the risk of nuclear proliferation and ballistic missile programmes. It controlled the transfer of equipment and technologies which are related to the Mass destruction weapons. It controls the production of nuclear-capable and unmanned delivery systems.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) had been playing important role in the world politics. It is a multilateral export control regime. It was established in April 1987 by G-7 countries i.e. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It can be considered as an informal and voluntary partnership among the 35 countries to prevent the comprehension of missile and aerial vehicle technology carrying above 500kg within 300 KM. In the phase of nuclear weapons world, the MTCR has been considered as an important milestone for controlling the expansion of missile and related chemicals or technologies. The voluntary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) aims to restrict the expansion of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.

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Objectives of MTCR:

The main objectives of MTCR are

1. To restrict the proliferation of Missile, rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles and related technology within 300 kilometers. This attempt is applicable for the delivery of mass destructive weapons.
2. To restrict the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by controlling the exchange of goods and related technologies for this purpose.
3. To prevent the rocket systems missiles like ballistic missiles, space launch vehicles (SLVs), and sounding rockets.
4. To restrict the unmanned air vehicle system (UAVs) like cruise missiles, drones, UAVs, and remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs).
5. To maintain the transfer of missile-related technology among the member states without violation of national trade legitimacy policies.
6. To take the initiatives for strengthening the policies of Regime through the cooperation among the members.
7. To maintain vigilance over the transfer of missile equipment, material, and related technologies usable for systems capable of delivering Weapons of Mass Destruction.
8. To develop the cooperative relations between MTCR members and MTCR non-member states of the world. The MTCR members realized that the proliferation of nuclear weapons or delivery of nuclear weapons has been considered as a great threat to the international peace and security.

MTCR achieves its Objectives:

MTCR achieves its objectives through various processes. From the beginning of MTCR, it has stopped the various missile programmes. There are three types of ways for achieving its objectives like a. Export Controls b. Meetings c. Dialogue and Outreach.

Export Controls:

The regime of export policy guidelines applied to an integral common list of controlled items like software and technology. The MTCR is not a licensing authority but a group. Member states are responsible for determining the guidelines on the basis of their national policies and practices. The MTCR identifies five factors that member states should evaluate a possible export of controlled items:

- Whether the intended recipient state has objectivity for acquiring the weapons of mass destruction or not.
- The MTCR must evaluate the purposes and capabilities of intended recipient state's missile and space programmes.

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- The potential contribution the proposed transfer could make to the intended recipient's development of delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction;
- The MTCR must analyze the credibility of the intended recipient's stated purpose for the purchase; and
- It must evaluate whether the intended recipient state has the potential transfer conflicts with any multilateral treaty.

The MTCR member states have been encouraging all countries to abide by the rules and regulations of missiles transfer and related technologies relating to the common security. MTCR partners made some opportunities for conducting the broader dialogue on proliferation issues with neighboring states.

MTCR member states had been exchanging information relating to the national missile non-proliferation export licensing issues. The plenary meeting had been held and it had been commenced under the chairmanship of the principles of rotational basis. The recent meeting have been held in Ottawa, Canada (2001), Warsaw, Poland (2002), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2003), Seoul, South Korea (2004), Madrid, Spain 2005, Copenhagen, Denmark 2006, Athens, Greece 2007, Canberra, Australia 2008, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2011, Berlin, Germany 2012, Rome, Italy 2013, Oslo, Norway 2014, and Rotterdam, Netherlands 2015. In addition to that point of the view, the inter-sectional works are taking place every month through the point of contact (PoC). The Technical Experts took the decision on an ad-hoc basis. It has no secretariat and no distribution of works. It has been totally performed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France.

Dialogue and Outreach:

The MTCR partners had been taking initiatives to outreach their functions before the non-member MTCR states in the world. The member states provide their functions and information to the non-partners through dialogue and outreach. They are continuously trying to establish the policy of the prevention of proliferation of human destruction weapons. The member states pursue a contract with the non-member states for the commencement of workshops and seminars, dialogue relating to MTCR goals and objectives. They are always focusing on the topic of export controls, related rules and regulations, transshipment, and enforcement.

In September 2000, an MTCR meeting was held in Paris for the information about the perspective of new members on the MTCR. The members of eleven countries were attended and interested to find out the outline of the MTCR for the export of missile non-proliferation. The member countries participated to analyze the principles of export policies on the missile-related technology. In May 2001 another meeting was held in Warsaw. In this meeting officials from 53 countries were participated in the analysis of the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation popularly known as the Hague Code of Conduct. In November 2002 the Hague Code of Conduct came into existence. In 2004 the 110 nations have given their consent to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the Hague Code of Conduct.



In 2002 Hungary organized a seminar in Budapest, Hungary. In this seminar, the various participant from 14 Countries of Central and Eastern Europe participated and critically analyze the non-proliferation system like recent trends of missile proliferation, export-import control, and recent trends of missile proliferation. In February 2003 Japan organized a seminar on the Asian Export Control and Germany organized a seminar on Berlin Export control for the analysis of restriction on missile non-proliferation. In both seminars, the participants have given their emphasis on the export control and threat. In 2004 Argentina hosted a seminar on Proliferation, Brokering and Transshipment in Buenos Aires for the analyses of threat and danger of the weapon of mass destruction to the human security in the world. The main aim of the seminar was to develop the awareness and reality of expansion of the Mass Destruction Weapons.

There is a difference between MTCR Department-1 and Category-2 item. The entire class I items have a complete rocket and human-made wind power, such as full rockets and based missiles, astronaut vehicles, sounding rockets, cruise missiles, target drones and reunion drones that provide at least 500 kg range. The main full sub-systems of at least 300 kilometres, rocket layers, engines, guidance sets, and re-entry vehicles, and related software and technology, and specially designed features such as those designed in accordance with MRC instructions, are exported to rare events. To export and export the item regardless of department-1 item Market firm decision denied license to license. In addition, production facilities for category items are absolutely prohibited.

Category-2 items include other less sensitive and dual-use missile components, as well as other full-range missile systems capable of expanding at least 300 kilometres apart from the payload. Their exports are subject to licensing requirements considering non-expansion issues mentioned in MTCR guidelines. It relates to rocket systems like ballistic missiles, space launch vehicles and air vehicles.

Developments of MTCR

In November-December 1993 a plenary meeting was held in Interlaken, Switzerland for taking the planning the future regime of MTCR. The member states agreed to export the materials as per MTCR guidelines. These update steps become effective from July 1994. Another important step was taken for the implantation of rules and regulations relating to the transfer of missile and essential mechanism of weapons of mass destruction. This step was taken in the plenary held in Canberra in March 1994. In July, member states of MTCR agreed to establish the two different new Annex item: item19 which is related to the complete rocket systems. It established the rule of the range equal to 300km. and item20 which included the policies of production opportunities of the missile, rocket engines, and related technologies

In 4th October 1994, the United States and China published a joint statement on "Missile Proliferation." The United States opposed China's policy (August 1993) for missile exports to Pakistan. China agreed not to export the missile to Pakistan. China took the way of featuring the primary parameters of the MTCR. China was in favour of US policy of inherent capability which emphasized on the utilization of sufficient energy to supply a 500 kg payload at least 300 km. In October of this year, a plenary meeting was held in Stockholm for the development of cooperative



relations with non-member states to mobilize the goals and objectives of MTCR. In this year Russia applied for the full membership of MTCR.

In 1995 Germany hosted the 10th plenary meeting in Bonn. It was scheduled to be held on and from 10th to 12th October. 27 member states attended this meeting and Russia and South Africa participated the first time. They decided to intensify its regime to another area of the world. On the other hand, they changed the policy of Equipment and Technology annex for the technical expansion. The members' states also analyze the effect of missile proliferation in the regional security and their commitment to the comprehension of delivery of WMD. They also agreed to improve the cooperative relationship in the world and resolve the controversies in a peaceful manner.

Eleven Plenary meeting was held at Edinburgh, the United Kingdom in June/July 1996. Naturally, the United Kingdom assumed the Chair. The member states supported to "be proactive in encouraging" key non-MTCR trans-shippers to adhere to the MTCR guidelines and Annex and to practical assistance to implement transshipment controls on missile technology. They took important steps for promoting the regime's effect and to control or restrict missile proliferation in South Asia and the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, the member states incorporated the policy of dialogue and outreach to improve the cooperation and voluntary adherence of regime's rules and regulations. Japan was scheduled to host the 12th plenary meeting of MTCR in 1998. It was scheduled to be held on and from 4th November to 6th November 1997 in Tokyo, Japan. The member states concentrated on the rapid development in Asia and the Middle East and emphasized on the cooperative relations with non-MTCR members for the development of MTCR guidelines or rule and regulations among the non-member states.

MTCR member states had been exchanging information relating to the national missile non-proliferation export licensing issues. The plenary meeting had been held and it had been commenced under the chairmanship of the princ13th Plenary meeting of MTCR was held in Budapest, Hungary from 5th October to 9th October 1998. In this meeting, three new members Czech Republic, Poland, and Ukraine participated and emphasized on the transparent regime and rules and regulations. They analyzed the perspectives of North Korea's missile activities. They were interested to invite China in the regime. In 1999 14th Plenary meeting was held in Noordwijk, Netherland from 1-15th October. Netherland presides over the chair. They felt about the surveillance on the developments of export-import delivery systems of indigenous programmes in South and North East Asia and in the Middle East region. In this meeting, the confidence and security building measures were analyzed. The 15th Plenary meeting was held on 10th – 13th October 2000 in Finland. MTCR members confirmed that intensification of missile supply posed the greatest threat to the regional and global security. It can hamper the human civilization. In this meeting, the member states reviewed the principles, their commitment, confidence-building, and code of conduct against missile proliferation. They agreed to renew the export control policy. MTCR functions and its efforts for the missile proliferation were discussed in the 16th plenary meeting which was scheduled to be held on 25-28 September 2001. MTCR members have confirmed that the tragic events of September 11, 2001 in the United States strengthen the importance of MTCR's work. During the full session of 2001, the important role played by the export control was reinforced and the members agreed to the need for further strengthening them. They agree to limit the export of missile technology and related forms. A



Code of Code of Conduct against the expansion of ballistic missiles has been included and partners discuss this detail in detail.

Poland hosted the 17th plenary meeting on September 23rd to 27th September in 2002. The member states analyze the MTCR's activities and efforts of proliferation. They agreed to control the missile expansion which is the essential threat to the national, regional, and international arena. The member states were strict for controlling the missile development and related technologies. The 18th meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 19-26 September 2003. In this meeting, the member states realized that the missile proliferation is an important step for the global security. The member states took initiatives for the restriction of missile expansion. In the 19th meeting of MTCR, the member states took the policy of the missile Technology control regime which was held in Seoul from 6-8th October 2004. This meeting was chaired by Mr. OH Joon, Director General for International Organisations in Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. This meeting emphasized the control of missile proliferation. The steps of the plenary meeting were congratulated and included in Security Council resolution 1540. In 2005 Spain hosted the 25th plenary meeting scheduled to be held on and from 14th to 16th September. This meeting was chaired by Ambassador Manuel Viturro De La Torre. The partners welcomed India's announcement that it interested to abide by unilaterally to the MTCR rule and regulations. In this meeting, the member states analyzed the intangible transfer of Technology.

In 2006 MTCR 21st Plenary meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Its meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. perStig Moller, Minister for foreign affairs of Denmark and it was chaired by the Ambassador, Political Director Liselotte Plesner. In this meeting, the partners of MTCR concentrated their discussion on the expansion of missile proliferation in Northeast Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. They announced that it has the direct connection with UN Security Council resolution 1695. The 22nd MTCR plenary meeting was held on and from 7th November to 9th November 2007 in Athens and it was presided by Ambassador Eleftherios Danellis. In this meeting, the main emphasis was on the expansion policy of missile proliferation in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, and South Asia. They discussed the different policies of non-listed items of proliferation. The 23rd Plenary meeting was held in Canberra, Australia on 5-7th November 2008. This meeting was presided by Mr. John Quinn of Australian Development of Foreign Affairs. In this meeting, the MTCR members emphasized on the UN Security Council Resolution resolutions 1718, 1737, 1747, and 1803. These resolutions are related to the missile and nuclear tests of Democratic People's Republic of Korea and safeguards of Iran.

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There is a difference between MTCR Category- I and Category- II items. The complete Category- I items are included the complete rocket and unmanned aerial vehicle systems like ballistic missiles, space launch vehicles, sounding rockets, cruise missiles, target drones, and reconnaissance drones, capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kg to a range of at least 300 km, their major complete subsystems like rocket stages, engines, guidance sets, and Re-entry vehicles, and related software and technology, as well as production facilities for these items specifically designed. According to the MRCR guidelines, licensed for exporting on rare occasions and with regard to unrecognized firm conclusions about export of department-1 items irrespective of the purpose of exporting. In addition, production facilities are absolutely prohibited for Division I items.

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Brazil was scheduled to hold the 24th MTCR meeting on 5-13th November 2009. This meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with 34 members. In this meeting, the member states discussed the Iranian and North Korean missile programme. The new steps were taken by the member states to control the missile expansion like copper infiltrated tungsten, silver infiltrated tungsten and tungsten alloys in solid form. The MTCR member states did not hold the plenary meeting in 2010. The 25th MTCR meeting was held in Buenos Aires, on 13 – 15th April 2011. In this meeting, the member states analyzed the ability of the preventive functions and regime of the missile proliferation. The member states discussed the process to encourage the non-member of MTCR for the development of its regime. The 26th Plenary meeting was scheduled to be held in Berlin on 24-26th October 2012. The partners of MTCR had given their concern on the issue of rapid technological change and the role of intangible technology transfers (ITT). It is based on a. Any strategic goods software and related technology, b. any software or related technology under the catch-all provision.

In 2013 a new tendency came into existence in missile defence system of MTCR. On 28th May of 2013, Russia decided to sell missile defence system to Syria. The 27th meeting was held in Rome, Italy. They discuss the functions and progress of WMD programmes, Intercontinental Ballistic missiles, and other related technologies. The member states agreed to review the export control. This meeting concentrated on the global missile programme and missile programme in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, and South Asia. The member states analyzed to update the export control. The 28th MTCR meeting was held on 3rd October 2014 in Oslo, Norway. The member states discussed the various issues of different countries on missile technology proliferation. They also analyzed the internal operating system of MTCR for the prevention of missile expansion. On 5-9th October 2015 Netherlands holds the 29th Plenary meeting for the revisiting the past functions of MTCR and it reaffirmed the UNSCR 1540. In this year Italy supported India for joining in MTCR. India joined MTCR and it becomes a full member of MTCR. It has been considered as the new phenomena of India's foreign policy. The 30th MTCR partners meet in Busan, South Korea on 17-21st October 2016. This meeting is revisiting the policies and programmes of MTCR. Admission of India in MTCR will uphold the new way for India to buy missile technology and India's participation emphasizes the realistic forms of its aspiration. In this context, MTCR updated the equipment, software and related technologies of the missile. In 2017 11-12th January, the MTCR outreach programme was held in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Another outreach mission was held on 23rd February 2017 in Singapore for the analysis of recent trends of the export control system. The 31st plenary meeting was held 20th October 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. The MTCR members have regularly analyzed the equipment, software technologies.

The significance of India's MTCR membership

India became the 35th member of the MTCR in 2016. Membership of India in MTCR is necessary to getting chance to maintain its ballistic missiles to deliver a 500 kg payload at least 300 kg. Membership of India in MTCR has several advantages. Four important groups i.e. the nuclear suppliers' group, MTCR, Australia group and Wassenaar Group, had been controlling the guidelines of the non-proliferation treaty and sensitive materials and related technologies. On the other hand, India is not a member of the Australia group and groups. The successful forward to MTCR can be considered as the way for nuclear supply group and others. It is necessary to analyze that China and Pakistan are not the members of MTCR.

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1. India's membership into the MTCR has been considered as the way for the closer relations with NSG groups.
2. It can help India to develop its relations with the global non-proliferation community.
3. It permits India to buy missile technologies and raw materials.
4. After MTCR's announcement, India and the US are expected to fast-track their discussion on the sale of predator series of unmanned aircraft for the Indian military. Recently, except for the Taliban leader in Afghanistan, the predecessor drone CIA's preferred tool. Membership in MTCR is a great source of support for India to achieve this capability.
5. India will make itself a significant arms exporter in South Asia as well as other regions.
6. It can help Indian defense and MTCR membership of India will enhance the joint ventures with other members. It will develop the global cooperation and control the missile expansion in the different region.
7. It can develop the cooperative understanding between MTCR member states as well as members of other organization of the world.

Indian defense system got ten opportunities from the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) partnership.

- a. India as 35th member enters into the Elite Club of MTCR by maintaining the Hague Code of Conduct (multilateral transparency and confidence-building instrument concerning the spread of ballistic missiles). It permits Indian defense to incorporate in the world best missile proliferation and it helps India to realize the tendencies of missile programme.
- b. The membership of MTCR helps India to stand with the elite nations. Indian defense system has been intensified by India's incorporation in MTCR.
- c. ISRO (Indian Space Research Association) had been benefited by the membership and it benefited from highly developed nations of technologies.
- d. India develops its avenues of export through the entry into the elite clubs. Now India is allowed to export the Indo-Russian supersonic cruise missiles to the other states.
- e. The membership permits Indian defense to import the surveillance drones which are used to protect against the terrorism against Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- f. India got opportunities for the free export and import of its technology due to involvement in MTCR.
- g. India can finally seek better opportunities allowing ample protection against any futuristic attacks from outsiders.



- h. India will improve the sophisticated technology and knowledge of missiles adopted by MTCR. And India will be considered as an important player in the world and maintain its defense stability.
- i. It is a sign that China is not a member of 35 nations. It stands India's good place in the world. India became the member of elite club states. It is a victory for India and its security system.
- j. The MTCR is a milestone for India to achieve the way to enter into the Nuclear Suppliers Groups (NSG). After the denial of NSG for the membership of India, India got the new way through the MTCR format.

Conclusion

The MTCR was created to minimize the risk of nuclear proliferation and ballistic missile programmes. It controlled the transfer of equipment and technologies which are related to the Mass destruction weapons. It controls the production of nuclear-capable and unmanned delivery systems. This regime has succeeded for the minimization of ballistic missile programme of states like Iran, Iraq and North Korea to technology from the Soviet – Origin Scud surface to surface missile. In fact, as long as the technology allows the states to produce the missile, the threats will be increased in the world. It goes without saying that the MTCR is a voluntary non-proliferation arrangement. In October 1994, the MTCR took the important policy that is 'no undercut policy' which is considered as the establishment of MTCR guidelines. The meaning of the guideline is that if one member state does not allow to sale missile or other related technologies, all member should maintain the same way. They do not allow selling their technologies to the nation.

The MTCR has achieved some successes and its regimes had been responsible for the maintenance of the human security of the world. It is significant for the national security and survival of human beings in the world. It has significantly played to control the nuclear programmes of some nations. Argentina decided not to take the joint ballistic missile programme with Egypt and Iraq. Poland and the Czech Republic canceled their ballistic missile with respect to joining this regime. Brazil, South Africa, and Taiwan also adherence the guidelines of the regime and canceled their missile or space lunch vehicle programme due to the engagement in the regime. Recently Libyan and Syrian missile efforts were canceled due to the effective role of the regime.

The MTCR was well-intentioned and has achieved some successes. However, any security policy that is based on false assumptions and that ignores or attempts to downplay the significance of a substantive and fundamental threat to security and national survival is itself a source of instability and insecurity. India's involvement in MTCR is an important milestone to enter into the elite group countries. It can help India to take the participation in Nuclear Supply Groups (NSGs). ISRO (Indian Space Research Association) had been benefited by the membership of India in MTCR and it benefited from highly developed nations and G-7 countries. From the beginning of its formation, it has controlled the development of ballistic missile programmes in the different parts of the world.



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