

Louis Delvoie, Queen's University, said, "One pitfall to be avoided....is to embarrass the Americans which would play to isolationist elements in the US for two reasons: US full engagement is essential to maintain world peace and Canada is ever-more dependent on the US for its trade and well-being. (Kingston roundtable)

Cathleen Fisher said a review of US policy is long overdue and the American public should know of the varying views on what to do and the different frames of reference in discussion. She asked where is the theological and moral debate? Canada could help raise this awareness.

5. Nuclear Five, Non Proliferation Treaty and others: US Ambassador Tom Graham strongly stated "There are only 5 nuclear powers and there will only ever be 5 nuclear powers". Graham emphasized the NPT's dual bargain of non-nuclear states agreeing not to acquire nuclear weapons and that nuclear would engage in disarmament negotiations. He said any review of nuclear policy must start with the NPT which is the "security cornerstone" within the context of nuclear weapons.

Sir Michael Alexander, former UK representative on the North Atlantic Council emphasized old power and the status quo. He said the discussion of the future of nuclear arms should be with the Nuclear Five only and Canada "shouldn't knock the nuclear culture too hard". He cautioned Canada shouldn't take too high a profile in the nuclear discussions within NATO. Perhaps flagging disclosure and transparency and wording changes would be useful.

Vertical proliferation is not occurring, but horizontal proliferation is taking place in three areas of the world: the Middle East (Israel), South Asia (India, Pakistan), and East Asia (China, North Korea), although there may be some willingness for non-proliferation in China. The situation in India and Pakistan and in North Korea were immediate concerns, as is the non recognition of these new proliferators.

Brahma Chellaney from India strongly stated it is unlikely India will renounce it's nuclear capability unless the "Nuclear Five" do so. The recent testing in India was shocking and Peggy Mason reminded that norms are not binding and are not international laws. Major Avi Kober from Israel stated as long as there is a biological and chemical threat, Israel will not make any reductions in their nuclear arms.

6. Middle Powers: At the Ottawa roundtable, Senator Douglas Roche said, "Canada's abstention vote on the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) resolution at the UN signals a shift in Canada's policy on nuclear weapons." The Middle Power Initiative supports a no-first-use policy but only as an interim measure towards an unequivocal commitment to immediate steps and negotiations required for the elimination of nuclear arms. Senator Roche emphasized the need for like-minded non-nuclear governments and forward-minded movements of civil society to work together for change, as they had in the Ottawa Process to ban landmines.

Other participants emphasized the need for Canada to make real efforts to establish links with other middle powers who are potential allies, such as Germany. The economic depression in East Asia could cause Japan to move towards using a limited number of nuclear weapons as diplomatic leverage, just as China is indicating they do not want a nuclearized East Asia.