

Those who seek to damage the Treaty should think seriously of how difficult it would be to repair or recreate it.

But the NPT is about more than containing proliferation. It enshrines fundamental, enduring norms and principles governing nuclear behaviour, in order to enable the use of nuclear energy for economic development.

Article III mandates safeguards agreements, which provide the means to verify the peaceful, non-explosive uses of nuclear materials. For Canada, such assurances represent the essential starting point for the conduct of our nuclear co-operation and commerce.

The application of safeguards affords a degree of transparency to national nuclear programs that serves to support the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We will be asked at this Conference to lend our support to the IAEA's [International Atomic Energy Agency] 93+2 program to strengthen and streamline the application of safeguards. Because of the enhanced transparency and added assurance of peaceful, non-explosive use that this program will provide - including detecting clandestine nuclear activities - Canada will advocate firm support by NPT states of this initiative.

Article III also sets out standards for responsible behaviour on the part of supplier states, and provides the requirement for the establishment of complementary mechanisms, such as export-control regimes.

Safeguards and export controls reinforce each other and together provide assurances that nuclear weapons programs are not being secretly pursued. They provide confidence that suppliers are acting responsibly in fulfilling their commitments to the Treaty. In this way, all states - even non-NPT parties - derive security benefits from the Treaty.

Article IV establishes a principle that is of pure benefit to NPT states - all NPT countries gain from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and technology. The record in this regard is solid. Where appropriate to national needs, an increasing number of NPT countries are involved in the use and application of nuclear energy and technology.

Article VII offers a substantial benefit to non-nuclear weapons states. It provides a legal underpinning for the establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones [NWFZ]. These arrangements significantly enhance the security of those countries that are party to them. Canada believes that this is another positive element of regional and international security.