

To this end, it must encourage public input and inform the public on the exorbitant humanitarian, environmental and economic costs of nuclear weapons as well as their impact on international peace and security.

Response

The Government is committed to involving Canadians in discussions with respect to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Since instability in a global strategic environment affects all Canadians, the Government of Canada is and will remain concerned when governments ignore both the norms established by the non-proliferation regime and the basic human needs of their own citizens, expending scarce energy and resources in pursuit of weapons that destabilize entire regions and have profoundly negative effects on international security. The pursuit of national security must not be achieved at the expense of either international stability or human security.

In this regard, the Government welcomes this SCFAIT report as a substantive input to its own review of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policies based on a careful sounding of informed Canadian opinion. It recognizes in particular the contribution made over the course of the study through public roundtables convened by the Committee and the active contribution to the Committee's study by over a hundred non-governmental groups and individuals.

DFAIT will continue to participate in public outreach activities and other public consultative mechanisms, including through the CCFPD's activities.

DFAIT will launch shortly a website for its Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division in order to inform the public better of Canada's role and activities in these areas. The Government will also respond to the Parliament of Canada's interest in these issues.
