

Canada has reacted to this situation by applying very strict national controls on the export of its nuclear technology, materials and equipment, as well as by working with a number of other key countries (the Nuclear-Suppliers Group) to secure agreement on an international mechanism to prevent further proliferation. In both its bilateral and multilateral efforts, Canada has relied heavily on the IAEA as a neutral and internationally-acceptable body that can be called on to assure to the maximum extent possible that diversion of nuclear material for explosive purposes is not taking place. As the number and diversity of nuclear facilities in a growing list of countries increases, this key role of the IAEA will steadily grow in importance, as will the reliance of the international community on the effectiveness and objectivity of the agency.

Canada is represented on the Scientific Advisory Committee, composed of 12 or so distinguished scientists whose task it is to advise the Director-General on scientific and technical matters. In addition, Canada is represented on the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation, which provides advice on the technical aspects of safeguards. The Canadian Government also facilitates, where possible, the

employment of qualified Canadian citizens by the IAEA, both at its headquarters in Vienna and in its technical-assistance activities.

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It is evident, then, that the IAEA has a key role in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. With the growing need of all states, industrialized and developing, for more energy, there will be a corresponding dependence and emphasis, during the next half-century or so, on nuclear energy as the major reliable alternative to increasingly-scarce fossil fuels. The IAEA provides a unique forum in which information and experience can be exchanged so that the increased reliance of the international community on nuclear energy can take place in safety for both man and his environment. This is even more important in relation to nuclear proliferation; in the long term, the IAEA provides the only internationally-acceptable mechanism to protect against the diversion of nuclear materials for explosive purposes. For these reasons, Canada strongly supports the IAEA.

