

provisions of the Treaty are being realized" – as provided for in the Treaty itself.

We welcome this opportunity because we are convinced that a serious review of the Treaty will more than adequately and positively answer the legitimate questions: Are the purposes and provisions of the Treaty being realized? Has the Treaty fostered the development and adoption of "measures to safeguard the security of peoples?"

Canada advocates permanence with accountability. We believe that the five-yearly review conferences should be enhanced. States that are party to the NPT must be held to account for their custody of its values and for fulfilling all of its provisions. At this conference, the Canadian delegation looks forward to discussions aimed at enhancing the review conferences. Ways must be identified to engage the political levels in these conferences, not only to improve oversight of the NPT's implementation, but also to re-inforce measures aimed at progressive fulfilment of all the NPT's goals.

Let's look at the NPT's balance sheet as we enter the Review Conference.

A central purpose of the NPT was – and remains – the prevention of the further spread of nuclear weapons beyond the five postwar nuclear powers. Has the Treaty worked? In our view, yes.

In 1970, when the NPT entered into force, there were serious fears and numerous predictions that 25, and even more, states would possess nuclear arsenals by the time of the extension decision in 1995. This has not happened.

The fear of the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons that constituted the primary motivation of all states – nuclear and non-nuclear – to conclude the NPT and become parties has not occurred. This is a fact. Our collective security has benefited immeasurably.

At the regional level, with a few unfortunate exceptions, countries have not responded to nuclear-armed or nuclear-aspiring neighbours by diverting precious resources into the meaningless, wasteful pit of nuclear arms production.

The NPT is directly responsible for these realities.

But the threat of nuclear proliferation has not gone away. It is as real as it was in 1970. Now is not the time to abandon or imperil the Treaty. Indeed, given the situation today, if the NPT did not already exist, we would certainly be working to create it.

There are some in this room who were amongst the prescient drafters of this elegant Treaty, which has contributed so fundamentally to global security. They should be congratulated on their achievement.