

Canada's goal is to have all nations ban all chemical weapons - to get rid of them everywhere and forever. We seek a comprehensive ban, that prohibits not only the use, but the production and stockpiling, of chemical weapons. That will not happen overnight. It will require a reliable means of verification, which will let us test each other's word and assess each other's practice. Great progress has been made in the negotiation of a global, comprehensive and verifiable ban. That work must be pursued urgently, in the Conference on Disarmament, and in bilateral discussions. But this extraordinary meeting can take concrete steps toward that goal.

Specifically, we can condemn the use of chemical weapons, and commit ourselves not to use them.

We can reaffirm the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and call on other States to adhere to it.

We can strengthen the capacity of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to investigate allegations of chemical weapons use.

As a party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, Canada has accepted fully its obligations on chemical weapons use. Our policy is clear:

- Canada does not intend at any time to initiate the use of chemical weapons;
- Canada does not intend to develop, produce, acquire or stockpile such weapons, unless these weapons are used against the military forces or the civil population of Canada or its allies.

What does this mean?

- First, it means that Canada is applying its obligations under the Protocol to Parties and non-Parties alike.
- Second, we have adopted a firm policy of non-production to help achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- Third, Canada has already advised other nations of the destruction of the bulk, useable chemical warfare agents which it had stockpiled during the Second World War.

The 1925 Geneva Protocol also prohibits the use of biological methods of warfare. The Protocol was supplemented by the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention which prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons and requires their destruction. Canada moved