

production and stockpiling of bacteriological (1972) and chemical weapons (1992), limited conventional armed forces in Europe (1990), and banned or limited the use of certain types of weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, based in Vienna, is responsible for enforcing the guarantee agreements reached under the various disarmament treaties in order to ensure that nuclear materials and equipment intended for peaceful uses are not diverted for military purposes.

Canada has always been closely involved in these issues and in the negotiation of multilateral disarmament treaties. On all these matters, Canada's position on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament has been based primarily on maintaining, defending and strengthening the application of three basic global treaties: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. These basic instruments are complemented by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the treaties creating Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones.

Also in connection with nuclear disarmament, Canada is encouraging the United States and Russia to speed up the process of implementing the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) agreements reached between these two countries. Although Canada is pleased that implementation of START I, which came into force on December 5, 1994,

seems to be ahead of the agreed timetable, it is still concerned at Russia's delay in ratifying the START II treaty signed on January 3, 1993. Finally, to reassure states in all areas of the world about their own security and to achieve some progress on various other security issues debated at the United Nations and in other forums, Canada is calling for a rapid start on negotiating a START III treaty, which it regards as essential to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Anti-personnel mines

Under Canada's leadership and the collective efforts of a broad coalition of states and non-governmental organizations from all over the world, substantial progress has been made over the last two years on the issue of banning anti-personnel mines, culminating with the signature in Ottawa on December 3 and 4, 1997, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Ottawa Convention, signed by 135 countries and already ratified by over 84 states, assumed the force of international law on March 1, 1999.

Under the provisions of the Convention, states signatory undertook in particular to: (a) provide data on their stocks of anti-personnel mines and their national implementation measures to eliminate these mines; (b) destroy all their stockpiled anti-personnel mines within 4 years following passage of the convention; (c) destroy the anti-personnel mines in minefields within 10 years; and

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