

The objectives of the Agency are detailed below for each major area of responsibility:

CO-OPERATION (BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL)

Canada has been a long-standing and active proponent of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Canada enjoys an enviable reputation in encouraging co-operation for peaceful purposes within bilateral or multilateral fora. Since the end of World War II, Canada's approach has been to enhance security and well-being by promoting the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technologies, and by supporting compliance with international commitments. Canada also has long encouraged the elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world. The Agency seeks to contribute to co-operation in this area.

Canada has been a long-standing and active proponent of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which contains provisions for state party co-operation. Canada was among the first parties to contribute to the CWC's Voluntary Fund for assistance against the use of, or threat of use of, chemical weapons. The Canadian National Authority, situated within the Agency, liaises with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), exchanges information with other national authorities around the world, and supports the administration of export and import controls for Scheduled Chemicals. This last activity allows trade among states parties, while forbidding or controlling trade with states not party to the CWC.

On the nuclear side, Canada has developed unique technology for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Many countries are interested in benefiting from Canadian technology, and Canada is interested in sharing its technology but first must be assured that the importer will use it solely for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, Canada must be confident that the importer is capable and willing to use the technology safely. Binding non-proliferation assurances must be provided before the exchange of any nuclear items: nuclear material (e.g., uranium), material (e.g., heavy water), equipment and technology.

Multilaterally, the Agency is particularly active in its relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Canadian officials participate in efforts to strengthen the IAEA's capacity to serve as a cost-effective and efficient vehicle for promoting international co-operation leading to:

- the most effective possible assurances of nuclear weapons non-proliferation;
- increased nuclear safety on a global scale; and
- greater applications of nuclear technology, particularly in developing countries.