

Thus, we are a non-nuclear weapons state party of the NPT. Our approach to the debate on the functioning and future of the Treaty is shaped by this fact.

Second, and related, we come to this meeting as a major player in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In Canada, under the unique umbrella provided by the NPT, we are engaged in a wide spectrum of activities – from the mining and export of uranium to the design, production and export of one of the world's safest reactors: the CANDU. We have nuclear relations with 31 countries in all regions of the world.

Finally, we approach this meeting in the broader context: that of strengthening the United Nations and the framework of international norms and principles that turn the reality of interdependence from a source of potential conflict and difficulty into an asset and advantage.

Canada has a long-standing and enduring commitment to multilateralism. We want to work with friends and partners around the world to develop a security architecture for the 21st century that is inclusive and universal in its embrace. To do this, we must reinforce the rule of law among nations by, inter alia, building up the framework of international treaties respecting non-proliferation and disarmament. We must comply fully with them. Any arguments that mistakenly dwell on perceived losses of national sovereignty must be confronted by the acknowledgment of the tangible gains in security – the very reason why we enter into them as sovereign states.

The world – and particularly each of our local neighbourhoods – will be a safer place once there is universal adherence to the key non-proliferation instruments: beginning with the NPT but also encompassing the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons covering land mines.

Collective, co-operative security is the only practical option left for the world. We had 40 years of experience in sterile bloc politics. We have now had time to reflect, and we realize that this did not provide the basis we need to meet future challenges.

This meeting gives us a special opportunity to renew and revitalize our common commitment to collective security.

We are faced with two sets of issues: the review of the functioning of the Treaty over the past five years and the extension decision.

The Review

As it has done throughout the 25-year history of the NPT, Canada welcomes this five-yearly opportunity to review the operation of the Treaty, to assure that "the purposes of the preamble and the