

- strengthening the IAEA's safeguards system to better verify the civilian nature of nuclear programs in member states;
- implementing the decisions made during the first set of strategic arms reduction talks (START I), and ratifying and implementing START II;
- ensuring the continued implementation of the framework agreement between the United States and North Korea and of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, to ensure the peaceful nature of the North Korean nuclear program;
- ensuring ongoing international co-operation to combat nuclear smuggling on the basis of the Program for Preventing and Combatting Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Material endorsed at the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit.

Canada's two main priorities on the nuclear non-proliferation agenda are the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Cut-Off Convention.

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

Canada's long-standing position calls for an end to all nuclear tests and the speedy implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Negotiations on the treaty are close to completion, with signing expected this fall. A separate statement reaffirming this commitment to conclude and sign the CTBT by September 1996 was issued at the Moscow Nuclear Summit. In that statement, it was also again agreed that the CTBT must prohibit any nuclear test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

The treaty's scope is one of the most critical issues affecting negotiations. Four of the five nuclear weapons states — Russia, France, United States, United Kingdom — have announced their support for the "zero yield option," which would ban all nuclear explosions, including so-called "peaceful nuclear explosions." To date, China has insisted on the right of countries to carry out such nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, although this view is opposed by Canada and almost all countries in the negotiations.

Cut-Off Convention

Canada has been a constant advocate of a convention to halt the production of fissile material for explosive purposes and took on the task of identifying a mandate that would allow negotiations to start. In the spring of 1995, a mandate was finally agreed to. While all states committed themselves at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference to an immediate start to negotiations, they have yet to begin. The establishment of a negotiating committee has been held up primarily over whether the treaty will cover stockpiles of fissile material.