

contributions to stopping the nuclear arms race. Canada is pursuing vigorously both of these U.N. agenda items with the long-term goal of halting and reversing the nuclear arms race.

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva is the sole global multilateral negotiating body dedicated to arms control and disarmament issues. Its membership stands at 40 and includes all five nuclear powers plus representation from all geo-political blocs: the East, the West and the Neutral-Non-Aligned. Canada's Ambassador to the CD is J. Alan Beesley.

The Conference on Disarmament deals with a number of issues relating to the cessation of the arms race, disarmament and other relevant measures in the following areas:

- nuclear weapons in all aspects;
- chemical weapons;
- other weapons of mass destruction;
- conventional weapons;
- reduction of military budgets;
- reduction of armed forces;
- disarmament and development;
- disarmament and international security;
- collateral measures; which include confidence-building measures and effective verification provisions for disarmament measures.
- A comprehensive programme of disarmament leading to general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Each year the CD adopts an agenda composed of selected items extracted from this general framework. In 1985, it considered nine items, including chemical weapons, a nuclear test ban and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Since 1980, the CD has been working on negotiating a convention which would ban the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. The terrible history of chemical weapons use in the First World War — which resulted in more than 900,000 deaths and one million casualties — and recent evidence of chemical weapons use in the Iran-Iraq war, and allegations of use in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia have reinforced the immediate need for a Chemical Weapons Convention.