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In order to implement this fundamental principle, the Committee recommends that the Government of Canada issue a policy statement which explains the links between Canada's nuclear non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament policy and all other aspects of its international relations.

Response

The Government has tabled a comprehensive policy statement that will guide Canada's renewed approach to the "nuclear challenge". Departmental officials are at the Committee's disposal to discuss links between this policy and other aspects of Canada's international relations.



In addition, it must also establish a process to achieve a basis for ongoing consensus by keeping the Canadian public and parliamentarians informed of developments in this area, in particular by means of:

Annual preparatory meetings — held, for example, under the auspices of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development — of the type held with non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society before the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission;

Response

The Government agrees to hold an annual meeting with non-governmental organizations and will consider how best to implement this consultative process.

The Government is committed to involving Canadians in discussions with respect to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Non-governmental organizations, individual Canadians, experts and academics have been and will continue to be encouraged to provide their contributions to an ongoing open dialogue.

The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) was established by the Government to help Canadians participate in foreign policy-making. The CCFPD held numerous seminars and conferences across Canada in 1998, in order to stimulate and facilitate focused and informed discussions among Canadians on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as on issues within the broad context of international security. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has also initiated several public outreach activities with respect to Canada's nuclear export and non-proliferation policy.

As the debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation evolves further, the Government will seek additional ways to gain input from non-governmental sources.

