

importance of multilateralism to the disarmament process, yet is keenly aware that multilateralism carries with it a particular burden of responsibility. It is Canada's desire that this Working Group and this special session will convince all who might doubt the relevance of multilateral approaches to disarmament.

12. Of great importance to making advances in disarmament is an informed and educated public. This was recognized by both previous special sessions devoted to disarmament and the Government of Canada strongly endorses this conviction and believes it should be reaffirmed by the third special session.

13. The General Assembly at its first special session called upon Member States to expand their efforts in the field of research, education and the dissemination of information. The Government of Canada has pursued this call in a vigorous and concrete fashion, with the aim of improving the dialogue between Canadians and their Government. We believe the Canadian experience in this area is useful to recall:

(1) In August 1978, Canada created the position of Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs to demonstrate that Canada was serious in its intention to follow up the recommendations of the first special session. In 1980, the Adviser's position evolved into that of Ambassador for Disarmament, which was established to represent Canada at international arms control and disarmament conferences, and to serve as the principal point of contact between the Government and the community of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

(2) In 1979, a consultative group was established, comprised of private individuals, NGO representatives and members of the academic community. The Consultative Group, under the chairmanship of the Ambassador for Disarmament, meets regularly with Canadian government officials to exchange views on matters of arms control and disarmament and offer recommendations.

(3) In 1980, the Disarmament Fund was established by the Department of External Affairs to assist Canadians seeking to contribute to the discussion of disarmament issues. The Fund has distributed over \$1.7 million to date to interested Canadians to hold conferences, carry out research and engage in other such activities.

(4) In 1984, the Parliament of Canada created the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. Currently funded at a level of \$5 million per annum, the Institute seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of international peace and security issues from a Canadian perspective.

14. These measures, and others, reflect Canada's deep commitment to public awareness of, and participation in, disarmament issues. For this reason, Canada attaches considerable importance to similar efforts undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat.

15. From the beginning, Canada has been a strong supporter of the World Disarmament Campaign. In fact, since its inception, \$400,000 has been contributed by Canada (making it a leading financial supporter). The Canadian contribution at