

In its approach to verification, Canada is guided by the recommendations of the First and Second United Nations Special Sessions on Disarmament, where all governments were urged to examine the problem of verification and consider adequate measures and provisions.

In 1979, following a review of the past 25 years of the arms control and disarmament process, Canadian experts concluded that verification had become the most significant factor in international arms control and disarmament discussions. It was clear to Canada that a) verification was an area where much misunderstanding existed; b) verification was an area where relatively little research was being undertaken and c) verification was discussed in a very ad hoc fashion and was being developed to meet criteria within specific negotiations.

At UNSSOD II, former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau identified the arms control and disarmament issues which Canada considered to be priority matters, and focussed on the process of verification. The following year, in 1983, in response to the principles expressed at UNSSOD I and II, the Government of Canada announced the establishment of a Verification Research Programme with a budget that has now reached \$1 million annually.