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*Nuclear non-proliferation and arms control are more important than ever.*

- **Nuclear Weapons**

- **Nuclear weapons still threaten us:** The disposal of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union and nuclear proliferation threats elsewhere, notably North Korea, South Asia and the Middle East, will continue to preoccupy the international community, and will require concerted efforts to prevent new sources of potentially catastrophic conflict. The threat of criminal or terrorist organizations coming into possession of nuclear materials, either through sale or theft, is a growing concern that must be addressed.
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** Our highest priority is to secure international agreement to indefinitely and unconditionally extend the NPT, the most effective international instrument for stopping nuclear proliferation. As part of this effort, we are committed to strengthening the capacity of the International Atomic Energy Agency to effectively safeguard civilian nuclear systems.

There has been highly unfortunate North-South polarization in the NPT extension debate, based in part on the argument of some that the Treaty benefits "haves" at the expense of "have-nots." Canada will continue to emphasize that the Treaty creates security. All win: the security gains of one party are not the losses of another. We will continue to reach out to all parties, encouraging moderation and pragmatism in the review of Treaty implementation and extension, while pressing for continued nuclear disarmament.

- **Other Weapons of Mass Destruction**

- **Chemical and biological weapons:** Effective, coordinated international action will also be required to counter the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. The current international treaties in these areas are helpful, but more research on verification systems is required. Canada is working with other countries to develop effective measures on verification. We will also work to curb exports of weapons and delivery systems of mass destruction and of the materials to build them.