

14.

The Committee recommends that the Canadian Government intensify its efforts, in co-operation with like-minded States, such as our NATO allies, to advance the global disarmament and security agenda:

Response

The Government agrees that Canada intensify its efforts to advance the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime and promote international security in its broadest dimension. The United Nations (UN) continues to be the key vehicle for pursuing Canada's global security objectives, which include strengthening the international community's capacity for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building. Together with partners in the UN and regional organizations, Canada seeks to promote a more secure environment in which governments and civil society are prepared to invest in strengthened and universal disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms. As an active member of NATO and a net contributor to overall Alliance security, as a friend and neighbour of the United States and its partner in NORAD and as a country that has a broad interest in (and ability to contribute to) building international peace and security, Canada balances its Alliance obligations with its disarmament and non-proliferation goals.

Canada should reaffirm its support for the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as the centrepiece of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and should reject any attempt to revise the Treaty to acknowledge India and Pakistan as "nuclear-weapon States" under it.

Response

The Government has repeatedly and consistently reaffirmed that the NPT is the central instrument through which Canada works to achieve the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The NPT is the framework built by the international community within which to achieve the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Promoting universal adherence to the NPT is a Canadian priority.

In a statement before SCFAIT following India's nuclear tests in May, the Minister of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the Government's policy to forcefully and responsibly advocate a nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the NPT and its associated instruments. He also voiced Canada's vigorous opposition to any move (*de jure* or *de facto*) to legitimize any new nuclear-weapon state.
