

14. A further global success was the agreement achieved at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in September 1987. The Conference succeeded in eliciting a commitment by all participants to pursue both disarmament and development objectives while establishing that the relationship between the two distinct processes is based on security. The Conference was particularly notable for its acceptance of a broad definition of security as being dependent on a wide variety of factors. That should be extremely helpful in ensuring that the arms control and disarmament process is seen not as an end in itself but as one building block in the construction of security.

15. We have focused on the developments which have received particular world attention. Equally significant, if less sensational, were the successful conclusion of the Review Conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1985 and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 1986. Canada is especially gratified that the United Nations Disarmament Commission also succeeded in reaching agreement on a set of 16 verification principles which codify international acceptance of the essential role of verification in the arms control and disarmament process. These principles are very significant because they represent a new consensus by the international community respecting this important subject and lay a new foundation for all future activity by the United Nations in this area. Such developments constitute the important confidence-building blocks which establish the foundation for future progress. The special session should reaffirm the validity of these verification principles as adopted by consensus by the Disarmament Commission.

16. This special session would be remiss and out of touch with reality if it failed to take full account of the recent successes in the field of arms control and disarmament. That is not to say, however, that those areas where much greater efforts and stronger exercise of political will are required should not be overlooked. Canada shares the disappointment of many that the Conference on Disarmament has failed to reach agreement on a balanced formula for consideration, in a realistic and practical manner, of the nuclear-test ban issue.

17. In another area, although the Non-Proliferation Treaty boasts the widest adherence of any arms control agreement, it remains a major concern to Canada that a key group of countries continues to refuse to become parties. Regional disputes and tensions appear to stand behind the reluctance of some countries to become parties. However, it could be said that the failure to sign the Treaty merely enhances the distrust of the intentions of others and exacerbates these tensions. The prospect of the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons could have frightening implications.

18. In the field of chemical weapons, although progress is being made in working towards a global ban on these horrific and indiscriminate agents, their use in the Gulf War, as verified by the Secretary-General, should be strongly condemned. Moreover, reports of an increasing number of countries having acquired or seeking to acquire a chemical-weapons capability should be viewed with growing concern.