

Applications of chemicals and nuclear energy have increased living standards throughout the world. Unfortunately, chemical and nuclear technologies also can be used by rogue governments or individuals for destructive purposes. To counter this, the 1990s have been characterized by intense international collaboration culminating in important conventions and treaties aimed at promoting the peaceful and safe use of chemical and radioactive material, and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Two important disarmament treaties were developed: the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) (signed by Canada in 1993), leading to the formation of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (signed by Canada in 1996), leading to the creation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna. In addition, at its 25-year Review Conference in 1995, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was extended indefinitely with the overwhelming support of the parties to the Treaty.

Regarding the safety of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been particularly active in co-ordinating the development of standards, regulations and conventions dealing with such issues as reactor safety and the safe management of radioactive waste. Significant efforts have also been made to strengthen the IAEA safeguards system and thereby promote non-proliferation.

To facilitate effective implementation of the CWC, the CTBT and other international commitments, units within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) were brought together in mid-1996 under one umbrella to form the Nuclear, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Implementation Agency (or IDN).

IDN focusses on four areas of responsibility:

- encouraging bilateral and multilateral co-operation at the international level;
- encouraging non-proliferation measures;
- implementing certain disarmament treaties; and
- promoting safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Agency is composed of a nuclear section and the CWC National Authority (see Figure 1). It interacts with major nuclear stakeholders in Canada and with relevant international organizations (Figure 2). The Agency's annual budget is about \$1.5 million (\$700 000 for operations, and \$835 000 for salaries for 14 staff). Table 1 provides more information on IDN's operating budget.