

It is with the solid reputation of a country committed to non-proliferation, as well as to nuclear cooperation, that Canada comes to the Third Review Conference of the NPT. Canada's credentials have long been established. Although Canada participated together with the United Kingdom in helping the United States develop the world's first atomic weapons during World War II, it was the first country consciously to forgo the development of nuclear weapons, despite clearly having the technology and capability to do so from the earliest days of the nuclear era. Canada declined to develop a capability to produce nuclear weapons and has adhered firmly to this principle ever since. Instead, Canada has concentrated all of its efforts to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Canada's nuclear programme is strictly for peaceful purposes and entirely subject to safeguards. With respect to nuclear exports, Canada has a comprehensive nuclear exports policy which is based upon and fully recognizes the central value of the NPT as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation régime. Specifically, Canada will only export nuclear materials, equipment and technology to those non-nuclear weapon states which have made a comprehensive binding commitment to non-proliferation, either by ratifying the NPT or by having taken an equivalent binding step, and have thereby accepted IAEA safeguards on their entire nuclear programme, current and future.

Thus, Canada is a country which deeply respects and values the NPT as an invaluable international treaty embodying the objectives of Canada's arms control, non-proliferation and nuclear cooperation policies. These are:

-- to encourage all nuclear weapon states to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

-- to promote the evolution of a more effective and comprehensive international non-proliferation régime;

-- to promote and facilitate nuclear cooperation while at the same time ensuring that Canadian exports do not result in further proliferation.

Canada comes to this Conference with the intention of ensuring a complete review of all aspects of the treaty. An honest evaluation is necessary.