

Cluster 1 intervention Introduction of FMCT resolution

EN

Distinguished delegates,

Canada, in cooperation with Germany and the Netherlands, has the honour to introduce the proposed resolution on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT) (A/C.1/77/L.47)

Stopping the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons is an indispensable step towards a world free of nuclear weapons. To achieve this common objective, we need new impetus towards commencing negotiations – negotiations that are long overdue.

This is the letter and spirit of our resolution. We thank the vast majority of delegations who have consistently supported this resolution, year after year. And we appeal to all delegations to vote in support of the resolution this year.

This year's resolution recognizes the voluntary fissile material moratoria adopted by some nuclear weapon states. Now more than ever, these moratoria are an important confidence-building step. It is crucial that we recognize the growing norm against the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

It is the clear and consistent will of a vast majority of UN Member States to commence immediate negotiations – without further delay, and without preconditions.

This year, Iran – one of the few states that regularly abstains on the resolution – circulated a hostile amendment to operative paragraph 1. Iran waited until shortly before action was to be taken on the resolution, instead of proposing its amendment during the two informal consultations held by Canada. Iran's action is in bad faith, and denies states an opportunity to comment.

The substance of Iran's hostile amendment is already addressed in preambular paragraph 4. An amendment to OP1 would be duplicative and unnecessary. While Iran is drawing upon language from the 2000 NPT Review Conference outcome document, this does not mean that it belongs into OP1 of this resolution. Nor does it mean that, in this context, such language is agreed to by all UN member states. This language has never been part of OP1 and we see no rationale for inserting it two decades after the 2000 Review Conference.

OP1 currently focuses on the immediate commencement of treaty negotiations. The sponsors of this resolution seek to keep the paragraph straightforward by minimizing the number of pre-conditions to negotiations, and to encourage states to resolve outstanding issues *at* the negotiation table. It is unacceptable that Member States

should wait any longer to commence negotiations. From our perspective, the amendment would not create any such conditions. However, this type of amendment could well be used as a stalling tactic by those seeking to impede progress on negotiations. In this regard, the amendment would be counterproductive and harmful to the intent of OP1.

To conclude, this amendment does not enjoy the consensus of all delegations and it would not help the international community advance towards negotiations of a treaty.

For these reasons, Canada urges Member States to vote *against* this unnecessary and unhelpful amendment, which Iran introduced without consultation and at the last minute.

We urge you to support the resolution as tabled by the sponsors, so that we can commence treaty negotiations without further delay.

Thank you.