

CANADA
Main Committee III: Peaceful Uses
Tenth Review Conference of the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Chairperson,

As we begin our work in Main Committee III, Canada welcomes you as Chair and offers you our full support and cooperation. We will contribute to a meaningful and constructive dialogue with the aim of achieving tangible and positive results.

To this end, we would like to draw attention to the working papers provided by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and Vienna Group of Ten. We firmly believe that these papers provide practical recommendations that can inform deliberations in this Committee.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty provides the essential framework enabling international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Canada recognizes the inalienable right of all States parties to undertake the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and actively engages in international cooperation to that end. We do this responsibly and confidently with partner countries who fully adhere to the non-proliferation and verification requirements outlined in the Treaty, which Canada considers to include a comprehensive safeguards agreement along with an Additional Protocol.

A robust implementation of the Treaty's safeguards provisions enables greater nuclear cooperation, which directly contributes to addressing a multitude of global issues.

We are facing unprecedented global challenges: the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, energy insecurity and increasing development needs. Canada strongly believes that nuclear technologies must play a central role in addressing these challenges sustainably.

In addition to being a low carbon-emitting energy source, nuclear applications will enable the global community to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing food security and health, improving the management of water resources, augmenting agricultural yields, and helping combat climate change.

Global cooperation would not be possible without the IAEA, which plays an essential role in assisting States that already use or are actively pursuing nuclear technology and applications.

Demands on IAEA resources, however, have expanded, and we have seen an increased reliance on extra-budgetary funding to support essential work. This is especially the case for nuclear security, which is key to ensuring that nuclear and radiological material remains under regulatory control.

Since 2012, Canada has provided over \$78 million in extra-budgetary contributions to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund, comprising financial as well as expert support in areas such as regulatory infrastructure development and long-term management of nuclear and radiological material.

Chairperson,

While Canada is pleased to have been able to provide this financial support, we must avoid over-reliance on extra-budgetary funding. This brings unpredictability for the Agency and undermines its ability to respond adequately to Member States' needs.

Canada calls on States to ensure that the Agency has reliable and sufficient technical, financial and human resources to carry out its mandate.

Canada has been actively involved in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology for seventy years. We are a significant producer and exporter of nuclear goods for peaceful applications. We play an active role in export control regimes and have established 32 bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements to ensure nuclear exports are used strictly for peaceful purposes.

Canada supports nuclear innovation and invests in the research and development of novel nuclear technologies. Canada has concluded a bilateral agreement with the ITER Organization to help further fusion research. We are also pioneering the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs). Canada is actively working with bilateral partners and the IAEA to harmonize the regulatory process to permit SMRs to be built safely, securely and rapidly across the globe. We encourage all NPT States Parties to explore opportunities to broaden nuclear engagement with newcomer countries, especially those seeking to combat climate change, gain energy independence, access nuclear medical applications, or meet their sustainable development goals.

Unfortunately, the success the NPT has fostered in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses is being directly undermined by President Putin's unjustifiable and unprovoked war against Ukraine. Russia's aggression, including attacks against operating nuclear power plants, continues to pose significant nuclear safety and security risks in Ukraine and has significantly increased the risk of a nuclear incident or accident.

In closing, Canada reaffirms the centrality of the Treaty and its three mutually reinforcing pillars. Recalling also the joint declaration on gender, diversity and inclusion cosponsored by 67 States Parties, we encourage the full, equal and effective involvement of women in all aspects of our work Through our domestic and international

engagement, we will continue to be an active partner in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.