

**10th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Main Committee I: Disarmament
Statement by Canada**

Chairperson,

Canada is strongly committed to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and reaffirms the critical importance of the NPT and the implementation of article VI. While we have seen a reduction of nuclear arsenals from their heights during the Cold War, much remains to be done. Nuclear weapons threaten all of humanity. And we are all too aware of their devastating humanitarian consequences.

In recent years, arms control regimes have eroded, and progress on disarmament has stalled. Some states are increasing their nuclear weapons arsenals and capabilities. In fact, nuclear arsenals remain so large that they could destroy the planet several times. Transparency is critical. We call on China to be transparent about its nuclear weapons holdings and to halt the expansion of its nuclear forces. While we welcomed the extension of New START and the strategic stability talks held between the United States and Russia, we deeply regret that this cooperation has ended due to Mr. Putin's unjustifiable and unprovoked war against Ukraine. We are encouraged by nuclear weapons states recent reaffirmations of the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought – and encourage them to live up to that ideal.

All nuclear weapon states, irrespective of the size of their arsenals, must engage meaningfully and constructively in arms control and disarmament discussions, and come forward this month with proposals for credible and incremental steps towards progress. The need for constructive dialogue and genuine commitment to nuclear disarmament is more urgent now than ever with the emergence of new and destabilizing technologies, and a fraught international security environment.

Canada proudly participates in the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to help end the decades-long stalemate on nuclear disarmament. These cross-regional initiatives propose concrete measures for advancing nuclear disarmament that are realistic and achievable, including steps to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines and policies, enhance transparency, and reduce the risk of use of nuclear weapons, which do not replace, but rather, go hand in hand with disarmament. We encourage all states to consider the Stockholm Initiative's Risk Reduction Package and nuclear disarmament Stepping Stones and the NPDI's Landing Zone Paper.

Further, we must immediately commence negotiations on a treaty prohibiting fissile material production for nuclear weapons. Much work has been done to prepare for these negotiations, including by the group of governmental experts and by the high-level expert preparatory group. The General Assembly adopted a fissile material cut-off treaty resolution last year with near universal support which called on states to make innovative contributions at this Review Conference to facilitate negotiations on fissile material. We call on nuclear possessors to end the gridlock at the Conference on Disarmament which will further lay the foundation for FMCT treaty negotiations.

Another practical step to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons is through the entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We call on all states, particularly those listed in Annex II, that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so without delay. The International Monitoring System has already proven its worth in detecting nuclear tests and only the entry into force will allow its full implementation, a critical tool in achieving a nuclear weapons free world.

Canada encourages all States Parties to participate actively in, or support the development of, multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capabilities. We note in this context the work done by the International Partnership on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) and look forward to the upcoming deliberations of the second Group of Governmental Experts.

Transparency is indispensable. Among other things, Canada calls on all parties to submit national implementation reports at regular intervals. We commend the NPDI working paper on transparency to States Parties.

Canada supports active and meaningful engagement by all states and by civil society in disarmament affairs. Recalling 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 and call for more space be given to youth and others whose perspectives remain underrepresented. Universal and diverse participation strengthens the value and credibility of what we do. We need concerted efforts to achieve our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

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