

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

Chairperson,

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty remains essential for enabling States to fully benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, while upholding shared non-proliferation obligations. Canada values the Treaty's indispensable contribution to global peace and security and the rules-based international order. It is important to recognize the successes of the Treaty while also renewing our efforts to advance its non-proliferation objectives.

We must first recognize the impact of President Putin's unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine on the NPT. Russia's repeated attacks against and in the vicinity of nuclear facilities in Ukraine, including the ongoing occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, directly undermine the effective implementation of NPT Safeguards in Ukraine, thereby posing a challenge to the NPT's core non-proliferation principles.

The present and future of the NPT relies on the IAEA's safeguards system. Canada reaffirms the Agency's unique and invaluable role in verifying compliance with non-proliferation obligations through safeguards. We urge all States Parties to take the steps required to implement Agency safeguards in line with NPT obligations.

Canada firmly believes that a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol form the *de facto* verification standard pursuant to Article III of the Treaty. These instruments together provide the most effective framework for enabling the Agency to verify the correctness and completeness of States' nuclear declarations and thus providing assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear activities in non-nuclear weapon states.

We urge all states that have not yet done so to bring into force a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol without further delay, and congratulate states that have done so since 2015. Canada is working with partners through the Vienna-based Friends of the Additional Protocol to support countries to sign and implement this essential instrument. We also call on implicated States to rescind or amend their Small Quantities Protocols as soon as possible.

We are committed to the effective implementation of IAEA safeguards within Canada. Since 2005, the Agency has concluded annually that all nuclear material in Canada remains in peaceful activities, demonstrating the highest possible confidence in Canada's compliance with its NPT obligations.

Chairperson,

It is imperative that IAEA safeguards evolve to address emerging challenges. We applaud the Agency's tireless efforts to effectively implement safeguards during the COVID-19 pandemic

and pledge our continued support for the State Level Concept as a means to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Agency safeguards.

Canada recognizes the value of the Zangger Committee and Nuclear Suppliers Group in strengthening export controls while facilitating peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We encourage states to adhere to their nuclear export guidelines.

All States Parties should be gravely concerned by ongoing cases of non-compliance with non-proliferation obligations, which undermine the NPT regime and threaten our shared peace and security. We must work together with the IAEA to ensure that all instances of non-compliance are credibly resolved and verified by the Agency.

Canada is deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear escalations which contravene JCPOA limits and have no credible peaceful rationale. The JCPOA, if fully implemented and verified, remains an important non-proliferation instrument and we fully support diplomatic efforts to restore the agreement. Iran's lack of cooperation with the IAEA to resolve safeguards issues related to four previously undeclared nuclear locations and its intimidation of Agency inspectors is completely unacceptable. We urge Iran to immediately cooperate with the Agency to resolve all outstanding questions. This is critical to providing assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities and to maintaining the integrity of IAEA safeguards and the broader NPT regime.

We are deeply troubled by the DPRK's ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile activities, which violate UN Security Council resolutions and undermine international peace and security. It is imperative that the DPRK immediately comply with its NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations. Canada supports resumed diplomatic efforts leading to the DPRK's denuclearization.

Syria's long-standing failure to comply with its IAEA safeguards obligations is another serious concern that must be immediately addressed. The passage of time does not lessen the weight of legal obligations under the NPT and IAEA Safeguards agreements.

Canada's support for the NPT and IAEA safeguards as the fundamental global non-proliferation framework is unwavering. Together, we must take concrete action to strengthen IAEA safeguards and ensure that cases of non-compliance are promptly resolved.

We invite colleagues to consider the concrete proposals outlined in the papers of the NPT and Vienna Group of 10 to which Canada proudly contributed. 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. These steps are critical to maintaining the NPT's credibility as a non-proliferation instrument and its relevance as a unique contributor to international peace and security for decades to come.