

## **NPT Review Conference - Statement by Canada (Mr. Thomas Fetz) on 26 August 2022**

Mr. President,

We thank you, your team, the chairpersons of the MCs and SBs, and the Secretariat once again for your tireless efforts in guiding our deliberations.

Our delegation came to New York to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the international disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses architecture. In the spirit of compromise, our delegation was prepared to join consensus on your most recent draft outcome document.

While this draft was certainly not perfect, we believe it represented an incremental step forward in a difficult international environment. We were pleased to work with cross-regional groups such as the NPDI, SI, and the Vienna Group of Ten. We believe that these groups played an important role in bringing forward proposals on disarmament, risk reduction, transparency, reporting, non-proliferation, peaceful uses, access to technology, and other measures that garnered widespread support. Many of these were reflected in the many draft documents considered by this Conference. We are convinced that the work done by these groups is not lost but can be carried forward to the next review cycle.

We believe that significant progress was made on gender and we hope that this work can also be carried forward. We also hope that we can make progress on enhanced participation by civil society and affected communities, including indigenous people, in the NPT process.

We are disappointed that after weeks of negotiations the very same state that is responsible for the current tense international security environment is now responsible for breaking consensus. Russia, which is conducting a war of aggression against Ukraine, is also responsible for the dangerous situation around the ZNPP. We call on Russia to end its war against Ukraine and withdraw from Ukraine's internationally recognized territory, and thereby de-escalate the international security environment. This would go a long way towards creating a more favourable environment for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President, we now need to turn our minds to the next NPT review cycle. We call upon all delegations to move forward in the spirit of compromise and bridge building. Our work is too important to fail and we can together accomplish this task in an ambitious but realistic manner. In that context, we underline the importance of strengthening the NPT Review Process and we welcome the decision to establish a Working Group to that effect.

Mr. President, we truly appreciate the admirable work that you have done for so long and in such a difficult environment. This lack of an outcome document does not in any

way reflect on the commitment and professionalism you and your team have demonstrated over the course of the Review Conference. We also appreciate your good humour at this late hour.

Thank you, Mr. President.