Thank you, Chair.

First of all, let me say that Canada is pleased to co-sponsor the Resolution introduced by Mexico, entitled: *United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education*. The resolution affirms that the need for education and outreach in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation has never been greater, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations, civil society and non-governmental organizations in the pursuit of this goal.

Canada has long recognized and supported the active engagement of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of our shared non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament objectives. On an annual basis, the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds consultations with civil society to address topical non-proliferation and disarmament issues. We have introduced the practice of including representatives of civil society on our delegations to meetings of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Canada provides funding to NGOs to convene expert-level consultations, and supports efforts of *Reaching Critical Will* to ensure wide public access to national statements and other documents emanating from meetings of UN disarmament bodies.

The *International Security Research and Outreach Program* of Foreign Affairs Canada constitutes a focal point for original research and assessment relevant to international security issues, including non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, verification and confidence-building measures. The Programme draws together in-house capability, resources from other government departments and a network of expertise from the academic community and other knowledgeable individuals in Canada and abroad.

Canada also supports independent graduate-level research through several Doctoral and Masters-level research awards, offered in collaboration with the Simons Centre for Peace and Disarmament Studies at the University of British Columbia. The primary objective of these awards is to enhance Canadian graduate level scholarship on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and signals the importance we attach the development of centres of excellence in this area.

Most recently, in partnership with the United Nations Association of Canada, my Government has sponsored the production of an education module intended for students and teachers at the secondary school level. This project will be launched at Canadian high schools this year, and will do much to promote the close collaboration between disarmament experts and civil society, including young students, educators and academic institutions.

Thank you, Chair