Mr. Chair,

Canada views nuclear proliferation as the most significant threat to global peace and security. The international community must further strengthen its efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as related materials and technologies. Failing to do so will have grave consequences for all. There are no easy solutions to reaching our long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons: concerted efforts are required. We must work together to maintain and strengthen the institutions and regimes that are needed to advance key non-proliferation and disarmament priorities.

Over the past year, Canada has grown increasingly concerned with several blatant and distressing cases of countries failing to comply with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations. Iran’s nuclear program can only be seen as a continued effort to acquire nuclear weapons capabilities, which undermines global and regional stability. This effort contravenes obligations placed on Iran by the United Nations Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency and represents clear non-compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Despite several years of concerted attempts by the IAEA and the P5+1 to engage Iran in good faith, despite several years of concerted attempts by the IAEA and the P5+1 to engage Iran in good faith, Iran has obfuscated, delayed, and refused to answer critical questions about its nuclear program. We note this week’s P5+1 talks in Geneva, but actions speak louder than words and Iran must continue to do more to demonstrate that it is prepared to abandon its nuclear weapons program. The crisis has persisted for far too long and the international community must continue to seek a means to end this dangerous impasse.

We have also seen a rise in North Korea’s irresponsibly-provocative actions and belligerent rhetoric. North Korea’s evident pride in announcing its nuclear test in the Conference on Disarmament in February demonstrated its lack of respect for international norms and institutions. Following this test, Canada co-sponsored the UN Security Council Resolution that expanded sanctions on the North Korean regime. We are committed to full sanctions implementation by member states to discourage additional nuclear or ballistic missile tests. Canada unreservedly calls upon Iran and North Korea to abide by relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We also stress the need for Iran and North Korea, as well as Syria, to fully cooperate with the IAEA and the international community to address outstanding questions about their respective nuclear activities. It is imperative that these countries return to full compliance with all relevant non-proliferation obligations immediately.

Canada strongly supported the strengthened references to non-compliance by Iran, North Korea, and Syria in the Chair’s Summary of the 2013 NPT PrepCom. Canada will continue to work with like-minded partners to address this non-compliance. Canada welcomes the announcement made by President Obama that the US will seek further bilateral reductions of strategic nuclear weapons. We also welcome the efforts of the Nuclear Weapons States to continue to draw down their nuclear weapons stockpiles and will continue to call for further
transparency and reductions, including on non-strategic weapons, in a pragmatic and step by step approach. We will also continue to work with interested delegations on how best to strengthen the NPT’s institutional structure to improve governance and accountability.

Mr. Chair,

We must also continue to work to build the regimes and instruments that are critical to advancing our non-proliferation priorities. In this regard, we note the progress to begin a substantive process toward the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. As called for in UNGA Resolution 67/53, the UN Secretary General has released a report of member states’ views on a potential FMCT. We appreciate those states which submitted their views. We look forward to the forthcoming Group of Governmental Experts which will meet for 8 weeks during 2014 and 2015 to discuss possible aspects of a future FMCT and encourage all Member States to contribute to the work of the GGE. Despite these positive steps, the Conference on Disarmament continues to be prevented from agreeing to a comprehensive Program of Work that includes FMCT negotiations. We hope that the Informal Working Group tasked with producing a CD Program of Work will succeed. We once again encourage all delegations to engage constructively and demonstrate the flexibility necessary to move the CD towards substantive work.

Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty, critical for both non-proliferation and disarmament, remains a priority for Canada. Canada pleased to participate in the Article XIV Conference that was held on September 27th. We reiterate our call for all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty. Canada is also pleased to highlight that our contribution of state-of-the-art radiation detection equipment to bolster the CTBTO’s on-site inspection capabilities, as announced by our Foreign Minister at the Friends of the CTBT event in 2012, was completed in September 2013.

Canada’s contribution to the CTBTO’s was made possible through the work of our Global Partnership Program, which coordinates Canadian programming under the 26-partner Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Canada is very pleased to note that Mexico and the Philippines have joined the group and we welcome their participation in this initiative. Over the past decade, Canada has invested more than $950M in concrete programming worldwide to combat WMD proliferation and terrorism through the Global Partnership. Canada’s Global Partnership Program will continue to engage in WMD threat reduction programming until 2018 with $73M in annual funding.

Canada is committed to working with partners to address the grave security challenge posed by nuclear terrorism through the Nuclear Security Summit and we were pleased to have hosted the latest Summit Sherpa meeting in Ottawa earlier this month. In 2013, our Parliament passed domestic legislation that enhances Canada’s ability to counter acts of nuclear terrorism and to enhance physical protection for nuclear materials used for peaceful purposes. Canada looks forward to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague as an opportunity for the international community to continue to demonstrate its commitment to securing vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide and preventing nuclear terrorism.

Canada was pleased with the outcomes of the 2013 High Level Political Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). In line with the obligations of UNSCR 1540, the PSI is an effective, multidisciplinary tool to help countries improve the capabilities and cooperation required to disrupt illicit shipments of nuclear and other WMD materials, including during transit.
and transhipment. We encourage all States to consider endorsing the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, my delegation will continue to contribute to a productive First Committee session and to promote key priorities.