

NPT Review Conference
New York, May 2005
2005-05-20

CANADA

Intervention on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

Mr Chair,

Canada's views on the issues covered by this Main Committee were expressed in Working Paper 38 and presented in Plenary. Our intervention today welcomes the Working paper put forward by Japan on behalf of Egypt, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. Canada is very pleased that the NPT Review Conference is paying attention to this important issue.

Disarmament and non-proliferation education is an essential tool for improving understanding of these issues among youth, as well as among the public at large. This in turn, is a vital underpinning to our efforts to strengthen the prospects for achieving disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly for future generations. Canada was pleased to co-sponsor the UN General Assembly resolution "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", adopted by consensus last fall.

Demonstrating our active commitment towards disarmament and non-proliferation education, Canada already has in place several national measures along the lines of the 34 recommendations in the UN study. For example, the government of Canada supports independent graduate-level research through research awards, and in partnership with the United Nations Association of Canada, sponsored the production of an education module for students and teachers at the secondary school level.

Well prior to the study, Canada has long recognized the value of civil society input in the field of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. We include representatives of civil society in our delegations to NPT meetings, as is the case again here at this Review Conference. The Department of Foreign Affairs holds annual consultations with civil society on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and provides funding to NGOs to convene expert-level consultations.

We hope that our experience will be beneficial to other States Parties interested in becoming more active in this important area.