

Canada is pleased that the NPT's institutional issues are receiving serious consideration at this Review Conference, and we appreciate your attention to them.

A number of countries have supported Canada's call for re-arranged meetings of NPT States Parties, which we proposed in recognition of the importance of the NPT and its cornerstone role and the consequent need that it be regarded as authoritative and credible, able to play the role we demand of it. The disconnect that has become apparent between the Treaty's central role and its lack of any supporting mechanism calls for remedial action. This is why we do not believe that we can continue with a business as usual approach, but rather need to rethink our modus operandi. As we have indicated in our general statement, and in the informal open-ended consultation we organized, together with Ireland, recent experience has only reinforced our view that the current NPT meeting format does not serve our needs, its exclusively preparatory focus is too narrow.

We have proposed several ideas, contained in Working paper 39, entitled "Achieving Permanence with Accountability", reflecting the reality that the Strengthened Review Process has not been playing the role initially envisaged for it, at its inception a decade ago. We need to adapt the spirit of 1995 to the realities of 2005. This has also been acknowledged by others, including in Working paper 51.

With regard to meetings, we propose a new approach to using our meeting time, within the overall time allocation of the current Preparatory Committee process, by rearranging our time into a one week annual Conference which meets in each of the four years between Review Conferences. This would - we and others believe - enable more effective consideration of issues, provide for flexibility in responding to recent developments, and allow States Parties to take decisions if required. Such an annual meeting would enable States Parties to address the Treaty's state of health and raise topical concerns about implementation. It would provide an elevated status for an annual Conference, within which States Parties would be empowered to discuss and take decisions on issues covered by the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

The substantive focus of an annual conference would do much to strengthen the NPT and its implementation. To prepare for the quinquennial Review Conferences, which would continue, we have suggested that in the two years immediately preceding a Review Conference, the annual Conference be extended by one week, to carry out the functions of a Preparatory Committee, finalizing the procedural arrangements and making every effort to produce a report containing recommendations for the Review Conference.

we recall the practice of an UNGA resolution on the NPT Review Conference, which could serve as a means to do this.

Mr. Chair,

It is evident to all at this Review Conference how similar policy and institutional issues are running through the three Main Committees. For example, the subsidiary body in Main Committee III is considering the role of an Extraordinary Meeting of States Parties in the case of withdrawal, which we welcome. We would want this meeting to be automatically held within two weeks of such notice. I know that you will be working closely with the Main Committee III and subsidiary body Chairs to ensure full consultation between the two Committees.

A second example is reporting. Our proposal here, contained in Working paper 39, has also been presented in Main Committee I. I will cite it for those who may not be familiar: "Reaffirming the importance of reporting, States Parties welcome the reports submitted to the Conference and agree to provide reports on an annual basis on implementation of Article VI and paragraph 4c of the 1995 Decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and recalling the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.

Recognising the inter-relationship of the provisions of the Treaty, States Parties are encouraged to include in their report implementation actions on all aspects of the Treaty." We look forward to these ideas being incorporated into the outcome from this Review Conference.

Finally, Canada very much supports enhancing the engagement of civil society in the work of the NPT and we agree with your encouragement to further facilitate and optimize their participation.

Mr. Chair,

Let me thank you and all States Parties for your attention to this new and important issue, whose advancement, hopefully along the lines we have suggested, will make a tangible contribution to all our work.