

**L. 26: PROMOTION OF MULTILATERALISM IN THE AREA OF
DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
CANADIAN EOY**

Mr. Chairman, I take the floor to explain Canada's abstention on L.26.

We need and welcome opportunities here to promote multilateralism in non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. As we have noted throughout this Committee, we believe that strong, legally binding multilateral treaties, respected and implemented, are indispensable to common security. We would have been pleased to have supported the resolution. However, despite Canada's firm, long-standing commitment to multilateral principles and approaches, we could not do so, on account of some specific, problematic elements in this resolution.

Multilateralism is indeed *a* core principle in our work. It is not, though, *the* core principle, in the language of the resolution - not, as is implied in that text, the *only* fundamental means. Our shared security system is rather the sum of many parts, involving a variety of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures. All these are necessary in effective global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament; none alone is sufficient.

Mr. Chairman, we also have problems with the tone of parts of the resolution. Rather than advancing an inclusive vision of multilateralism, it offers an overly rigid, restrictive and harmful interpretation, that could actually limit the options available to and required by the global community, to address and deal with security challenges.

That is why we have been unable to support L.26, and have instead abstained.

We look forward to working constructively together next year to enhance the role and contribution of multilateralism and to trying to develop a resolution that can be adopted without a vote.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.