



# AUSTRALIA

## Conference on Disarmament

**Statement by Mr Craig Maclachlan  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia  
to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva**

**28 February 2006**

Mr President

As this is the first time I have taken the floor under your presidency, I wish to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in your efforts to guide our work.

Australia is committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament through balanced and progressive steps.

All states have a role to play, but it is the nuclear weapon states that must take the lead in reducing the size of their arsenals. Importantly, several of these states have taken steps towards nuclear disarmament.

Australia welcomes the concrete measures of the START and Moscow treaties, as well as those unilateral reductions taken by other nuclear weapons states. But we look to the nuclear weapons states to make further transparent and irreversible efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons – towards fulfilling their end of the NPT bargain between themselves and non-nuclear weapon states.

Much is made of this bargain. But we should be clear that it is not the only bargain underpinning the treaty. There is also a bargain between non-nuclear weapon states to never seek or acquire nuclear weapons. This is central to the NPT and its non-proliferation aims.

And it is vital to nuclear disarmament, for there cannot be a world free of nuclear weapons without complete and permanent assurances of non-proliferation.

In recognition of this reality, Australia has long supported efforts by all states to promote an environment conducive to nuclear disarmament. Clearly much more can be done in this area.

A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty would strengthen disarmament – and non-proliferation – by capping the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would contribute to nuclear disarmament through a permanent ban on nuclear weapons testing. Moratoria on testing are welcome, but they are no substitute for the CTBT.

And states can assure others of the peaceful intent of their civilian nuclear program through concluding an Additional Protocol with the IAEA – recognising that the combination of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an Additional Protocol represents the NPT safeguards standard.

Australia was the first country to ratify and implement an Additional Protocol and will make the AP a condition of nuclear supply in consultation with our partners.

Mr President, in reaching the goal of nuclear disarmament, it is only natural that those states that possess such weapons take the lead.

But there is a role for all states in ensuring that the international environment is conducive to the lasting elimination of nuclear weapons.

Our work in this forum must take into account this reality if it is to develop effective responses to the challenges of nuclear disarmament.