Canadian Statement

- As in Oslo and Nayarit, speakers have again highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation and that these are not constrained neither by borders or time.
- This is exactly why Canada is consistently pursuing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as it creates a climate more conducive to nuclear disarmament and reduces the risk of deliberate or accidental use of such a weapon.
- Canada views Iran as the most significant threat to international peace and security, stemming from the regime’s ongoing non-compliance with its nuclear obligations. A nuclear Iran would not only be a threat to Canada and our allies but would also seriously damage the integrity of decades of work on nuclear non-proliferation, and could provoke neighbouring states to develop their own nuclear deterrence.
- Canada has long held the view that every diplomatic measure should be taken to ensure Iran never obtains nuclear weapons. Although we appreciate the tireless efforts of the P5+1 to address concerns about Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, Canada continues to question Iran’s dedication to achieving a negotiated outcome.
- The regime must take immediate actions to resolve the concerns of the international community, in particular by providing the IAEA with access to all relevant information, documentation, sites, material and personnel in Iran that the Agency has requested.
- Canada also remains gravely concerned about North Korea’s continued belligerent and destabilizing actions, including recent threats of a fourth nuclear test, regular ballistic missile testing and increased activity at its nuclear test site. North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programmes increase the risk of a nuclear weapons detonation and constitute a serious threat to regional and global security.
- Equally worrisome, is the risk of diversion or theft of nuclear materials by non-state actors whose aim would be to cause a humanitarian catastrophe.

- The terrible consequences of any nuclear war have underpinned all our efforts to promote effective and practical nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, notably through the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Canada welcomes these fact-based discussions and was pleased at the UNGA First Committee in 2013 and 2014, to join the Australian-led statement on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Over the last few days, some have asserted that these consequences leave no option but the early negotiation of a treaty which bans nuclear weapons, with or without the participation of those states that actually possess them.
However, Canada is concerned that simply banning nuclear weapons, without recognition of both their security and humanitarian dimensions, will not bring us any closer to a world free of nuclear weapons.

In fact, a Treaty banning nuclear weapons, without the endorsement of the main stakeholders, that is the countries who actually possess these weapons, seriously risks undermining the NPT and the delicate balance between its three pillars.

In our view, focusing our efforts on a pragmatic building-block approach to non-proliferation and disarmament is a much more realistic, practical and achievable in the short-term.

There are no easy solutions to reaching our long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons; sustained and concerted efforts continue to be required. It is important that we continue to work together to maintain and strengthen the institutions and regimes that are needed to further advance key non-proliferation and disarmament priorities.

Much has been achieved in significantly reducing the number of nuclear warheads, from Cold War numbers to about 16,000. However, the Nuclear Weapon States can do much more to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, their readiness and their capability.

It is crucial that all States resolutely and urgently fulfil their disarmament commitments, and work to ensure that these weapons do not proliferate or are ever used.

With near-universal adherence, the NPT remains the most viable framework through which to ensure nuclear weapons are never used.

In this regard, the 2015 NPT Review Conference will be a critical opportunity to renew our shared commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Our work at this conference must underpin and strengthen this vital treaty.

As a NATO member, Canada is resolved to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT.

To do so, Canada continues to make constructive contributions in initiatives that halt the spread of nuclear weapons, reduce existing stockpiles, and irreversibly eliminate them.

We are working actively with our partners in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to advance the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including greater transparency on nuclear disarmament and reductions in nuclear arsenals.

I am very proud to highlight Canada’s efforts to advance a Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty, and in particular, the work of the Group of Governmental Experts which is proceeding in a constructive and substantive manner.

As we work towards the important objective of their complete elimination, we must remain focused on stopping any further vertical or horizontal proliferation while ensuring that the existing weapons are never used. Thank you.