

**CNANW Seminar – ENERGIZING ACTION BY CANADA
TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

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Panel Discussion – Canadian Government Views on Next Steps to Nuclear Disarmament

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- I'm pleased to be here today to highlight how Canada's new defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged* contributes to global peace and security.
- Martin has just described the work that the Government of Canada is doing to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and I'd like to add to that a defence perspective.
- We work closely with Martin's team on a host of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives and fully support Canada's position that a pragmatic, step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament best serves Canada's interests and remains the most fruitful path toward meaningful nuclear disarmament.
- At the foundation of our new defence policy is the recognition that the global security environment of today presents us with a number of threats, challenges and opportunities.
- Three trends are clear:
- First, we are seeing an evolving balance of power that is characterized by a return to great power competition and challenges to the rules-based international order.
 - This includes aggressive moves by Russia in its periphery and to undermine Western powers as well as the military modernization of China and its dispute of territorial boundaries in the South China Sea.
- Second, the nature of conflict and its drivers are becoming increasingly complex.
 - Here we are thinking about things like the impact of climate change in exacerbating the potential for conflict, as well as the increasing use of hybrid tactics by state and non-state actors alike, blurring the lines between conflict and peace.
- Third, technology continues to evolve at a blinding pace. We must keep pace with this evolution both to maintain interoperability with allies and an edge over adversaries.

- Technology, particularly in the space and cyber domains, presents us with both opportunities and challenges. These domains can be great enablers for the military but threats continue to grow in these areas.
- The spread of advanced technology, including WMD technology, is also concerning as evident by the growing ballistic missile threat from the DPRK.
- A common realization from these three trends is that today's threats are increasingly diffuse and borderless. Many threats to Canada emanate from or are linked to abroad and the boundaries between national and international security as well as national security and defence continue to blur.
- Our geography no longer provides us with the protection it once did and these trends, if left unchecked, will erode the foundation of Canadian security and prosperity.
- Our conclusion was that Canada needed to rethink how it meets its defence needs and engages in the world to promote and defend its interests and values.
- This led us to our new vision for defence, in which Canada is strong at home, secure in North America and engaged in the world.
 - These three objectives are mutually reinforcing; to be strong and secure, Canada must work with the US to ensure the security of the continent and be engaged globally to build a safer and more peaceful world.
- The Government's desire to be engaged in the world is central to this vision. As a highly globalized, interconnected, trading nation Canada depends on a rules-based international system – one that is increasingly being challenged. Canada's stability and prosperity and inextricably linked to global peace and security.
- While no foreign adversary is poised to invade us, our geography no longer provides the protection it once did. Helping contribute to a safer and more prosperous world for all – including through robust international engagement – is integral to the protection and promotion of Canadian interests and values.
- Canada has also adopted a new approach to defence that puts a premium on the ability to anticipate emerging threats and challenges, adapt to changing circumstances and act with decisive military capability.
- The proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (known as WMDs) poses one of the gravest security challenges of the 21st century.
- The threat of WMD proliferation, and in particular the danger that WMDs could fall into the hands of terrorists willing to employ these weapons, is of particular concern to Canada and many of our international allies and partners.

- One need only read the news of the day to plainly see the ongoing risks of WMD terrorism, the provocative and destabilizing proliferation activities of several states, and increasing international tensions.
- Countries like North Korea, Syria, and Iran have sought, or continue to seek, items and technology for their WMD and ballistic missile programs.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1540 places legally binding international obligations on states to prevent the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials to non-state actors.
- UNSCR 1540, furthermore, complements a wide set of international treaties, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological & Toxins Weapons Convention.
- At National Defence, I work with colleagues from across Government to prevent Canadian technology and expertise from supporting weapons programs around the world.
- Living in the Western Hemisphere, it is easy to feel far removed from the major states of proliferation concern. But we know in Canada that we have proliferation networks operating within our own country, actively seeking components, technology, and knowledge/expertise. And as proliferation security mechanisms are strengthened in other regions, transit and trans-shipment routes in the Western Hemisphere could become increasingly attractive to proliferators.
- Proliferators are aggressive, diverse, constantly changing, and becoming increasingly sophisticated in the methods they use. We must remain agile to counter the threat they pose.
- Every country could host proliferation networks or become part of a WMD transit route. This is why we work to encourage as many countries as possible to effectively implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and build their capacity to strengthen proliferation security for all countries.
- While important, we recognize that implementing these obligations can be complex and time-consuming, particularly for smaller states.
- This is why Canada works to improve the counter-proliferation capacities of others. For example, we are delivering capacity-building projects worldwide to support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.
- Canada has invested more than \$1.2 billion over the past decade to support global efforts to combat the proliferation of WMD and related materials, and will contribute \$63 million in the current year, including up to \$6 million in dedicated 1540-related programming.

- Canada is also actively involved in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which seeks to combat the illicit trafficking of WMD and related materials, primarily through exercises, which allow states to test their operational capabilities for interdiction on land, at sea, and in the air. Through multinational exercises, PSI participants also clearly convey to would-be proliferators their collective determination to combat illicit trafficking in WMD, their means of delivery and related materials.
- Canada has supported regional capacity building exercises under the banner of PSI, especially in the Caribbean, where we have focused our efforts over the last few years. Canada will continue to support this important cooperative endeavour, contributing to the international diffusion of proliferation security norms and standards of practice internationally.
- Through this and other counter-proliferation mechanisms, we will continue to work to deepen cooperation among our international partners and allies, as well as across our domestic government departments.
- Even with robust mandates and laws, the nature of proliferation means that one state is often not able to deal effectively with proliferators on its own. It is only through multinational cooperation that we will be able to effectively address this challenge.