

## **Mid-discussion Summary Report - Sept. 25 to Oct.25, 2006**

### **Non-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament eDiscussion Results.**

**The debate up to now has been informed, thoughtful and constructive. Below are some key points of the discussion topics:**

**Note: The opinions presented are not necessarily those of the Government of Canada.**

#### **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**

- ▶ Many participants recognized the importance of the NPT, and thought it necessary to see all signatories commit to their obligations. It was suggested that those outside the Treaty join it.
- ▶ Participants diverged on how to react to the five nuclear powers inside the Treaty that have not disarmed. Some proposed sanctions to compel these five nuclear powers to disarm; others saw the importance of nuclear weapons as a tool to preserve security; and many noted the problem of the NPT entrenching the “haves” from the “have nots” of nuclear weapons.

#### **Canada’s role in nuclear disarmament**

- ▶ Participants see Canada as a credible leader in nuclear disarmament efforts by engaging in diplomatic discussions and in the promotion of humanitarian principles. Participants highlighted the importance of diplomacy while facing an issue like nuclear weapons.
- ▶ There were diverging views on Canada’s role in addressing the North Korean crisis. Some wanted Canada to have a larger role in the discussions, others preferred to see Canada as neutral, some said Canada should encourage American diplomacy, and still others thought talks should be conducted at the UN.

#### **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

- ▶ Participants did not agree on the need for disarmament, especially among civilians and non-state actors. Some argued that SALW were a tool for self-protection and considered disarmament a mistaken policy whereas others saw SALW as a serious security threat and advocated disarmament.

**In light of the lively debate that has already occurred around these important subjects, the Director of the Policy Research Division at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada would like to encourage participants to examine the following issues more closely:**

- ▶ What are the main non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament (NACD) threats (both direct and indirect) facing Canada today? What action should Canada take to counter these threats? Should Canada concentrate all of its resources in one NACD area? If yes, which one and why?
- ▶ In light of the recent nuclear weapons developments in North Korea and Iran, do chemical and biological weapons developments go unnoticed? What is your perception of these weapons? Are they more or less of a threat than nuclear weapons? Do the relevant conventions in place do enough to counter them? What, if anything more, needs to be done?

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