

A Five-Point Agenda for Renewed Canadian Action on Nuclear Disarmament

Canada's four leading nuclear disarmament organizations—the Canadian Pugwash Group, the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and Project Ploughshares—convened on Oct. 24 an expert Roundtable on “Nuclear Disarmament in Times of Unprecedented Risk.” These groups share the profound conviction that Canada must urgently reassert its voice and leadership in the global disarmament arena. The following is an abridged version of their report to the Government of Canada.

The world now stands on the razor's edge of the most severe nuclear weapons threat since the Cold War. Recent years have seen a deep erosion of the global nuclear arms control and disarmament framework, marked by the collapse of critical treaties, advances in destabilizing weapons technologies, record-breaking expenditures in conventional arms, and an alarming resurgence of great-power competition.

Canada must take clear, urgent, and decisive action to reinvigorate its nuclear disarmament agenda, push for concrete progress towards nuclear abolition, and help avert a nuclear weapons catastrophe.

1 Prioritize Nuclear Disarmament in Canadian Security and Foreign Policies

Canada should reaffirm its commitment to nuclear disarmament as a core element of its security and foreign policies.

2 Promote a Shift in NATO's Nuclear Doctrine

Canada should initiate a dialogue within NATO to address the risks inherent in, and the need to reduce, the Alliance's reliance on nuclear deterrence as an essential element of its security strategy.

3 Engage in Urgent Diplomatic and Risk Reduction Efforts

Canada should take an active diplomatic role in de-escalating nuclear risks arising from the Ukraine conflict, facilitating dialogue between NATO, Russia, and Ukraine to establish clear red lines.

4 Prevent Further Erosion of the NPT Regime

Canada should take a proactive stance in strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by supporting efforts to establish concrete targets, benchmarks, and timelines for nuclear disarmament.

5 Advance a Framework for Alternative Security Arrangements

Canada must advocate for a shift in security policy that moves beyond nuclear deterrence and implement common security principles fully consistent with the UN Charter.



Canadians for a
Nuclear Weapons Convention



Rassemblement canadien pour
une convention sur les armes nucléaires

Steering Committee



CANADIAN NETWORK TO
ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Le Réseau canadien pour
l'abolition des armes nucléaires

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