51st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Canadian Statement

1. Introduction:

Mr. President, in my capacity as Head of the Canadian Delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 51st General Conference and assure you and the Secretariat of the full support of my delegation in making this event a success.

This General Conference marks the conclusion of the 50th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency. As with all major milestones, this provides an opportune moment for us to reflect on the success of the Agency's three pillars: promoting safeguards and verification, promoting nuclear safety and security, and promoting nuclear science and technology.

For Canada, the IAEA is an important organization. We have been strong and active supporters of the Agency throughout its history. We were there at its creation and we will continue our tradition of support.

Events over the last year have shown more than ever that the world needs the IAEA. We all benefit from its programmes and activities. Every one of the Agency's three pillars makes a significant contribution, each in its own way, to ensuring realization of the many benefits of peaceful nuclear technologies. The Canadian Government and Canadian industry are actively involved in these programs because they are making a positive contribution to global peace, security and prosperity.

Canada would also like to use this important milestone to look ahead; we welcome a future with increased nuclear cooperation, with the increased use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and with a universally-accepted system of enhanced safeguards and verification. We would like to begin by welcoming the newest Member States of the IAEA, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Congo, and Nepal, to this important institution.

2. Safeguards and Verification:

I would like to speak first on the topic of safeguards and verification. Mr. President, the *Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The IAEA's role in verifying States' compliance with legally-binding commitments arising from that Treaty is unique and essential. We have worked diligently within the Agency to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system, which has provided the basis for the Secretariat to draw broader safeguards conclusions. Such conclusions lead to increased confidence in the peaceful nature of a State's nuclear programme; to this end, Canada reiterates its call for all States Party to the NPT that have not yet done so to accept the enhanced verification standard by entering into a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol with the Agency. We also reiterate our call on all States that have not joined the NPT to do so.

Canada notes, with interest, the developments that could pave the way to negotiations towards new safeguards agreements between India and the IAEA. We welcome closer collaboration between India and the IAEA which would increase the number of safeguarded nuclear facilities in India and we will closely review the details of new agreements, along with other Member States of the Board of Governors.

Mr. President, Canada applauds the Agency's efforts aimed at resolving outstanding issues related to the scope and nature of the nuclear program in Iran. We note, however, that Iran has considerable work to do to bring itself into compliance with its international obligations and to resolve issues stemming from its history of concealment. Canada regards the "work plan" between the IAEA and Iran as a step in the right direction and awaits the timely resolution of all outstanding issues. We note with grave concern the Director General's most recent report which states that Iran has not suspended enrichment related activities. We urge Iran to comply with Security Council resolutions 1737 and 1747 by suspending all enrichment activities and implementing its additional protocol. Only through these steps can Iran's claims that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful in nature be verified. We have entered a critical period on this issue. We will be closely monitoring progress on the work plan to ensure that Iran follows through on its commitment to cooperate

with the IAEA. We must also be prepared to move ahead with further Security Council action if necessary.

Canada remains deeply concerned about the DPRK's nuclear activities, including the nuclear explosive test conducted by the DPRK in October 2006. This test was inconsistent with international commitments previously undertaken by the DPRK and was condemned by Canada and others, including the UN Security Council.

With these concerns in mind, Canada supports a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issue and actively supports the Six-Party Talks process. We welcome the Six-Party agreement of February 13 and the initiation of actions thereunder, including the shutdown of North Korean nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and the return of IAEA personnel to the DPRK, which constitute an important step toward achieving verifiable denuclearization.

Canada calls on all parties to swiftly complete the implementation of the February 13th agreement, and encourages the DPRK to take further steps, including the provision of a complete declaration of all nuclear programs and the disablement of all existing nuclear facilities. Canada calls on the DPRK to recommit itself to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and IAEA comprehensive safeguards. As the DPRK moves toward meeting its commitments, Canada is reviewing the scope and nature of its engagement with the DPRK.

Mr. President, the safeguards system must be evolutionary in order to ensure that it can be responsive to new verification challenges and continue to provide the basis for credible safeguards conclusions. To this end, Canada attaches considerable importance to a system that utilizes a State-level perspective rather than the more traditional facility-level perspective, and features transparency in process and non-discrimination in implementation. In this regard, the past year was a milestone for safeguards implementation in Canada as it marked the introduction of a State-level integrated safeguards approach in our country. The State-level approach for Canada is being implemented on a sector-by-sector basis, taking into account agreed priorities and available resources. Given the significant level of IAEA resources that were required under traditional approaches to safeguard spent fuel transfers at

our multi-unit nuclear power reactors, implementation of a more efficient approach under integrated safeguards in this sector was given the highest priority. Having achieved this goal, work is now progressing in other sectors.

For Canada, full implementation of an effective State-level integrated safeguards approach is an important objective as it will provide the basis for greater optimization and greater efficiency in a country which has historically received a significant portion of the IAEA's inspection effort. We are dedicated to working with the IAEA to pursue maximum efficiency in safeguards implementation without undermining effectiveness.

3. Nuclear Safety and Security:

I turn now to nuclear safety and security. The threat of nuclear terrorism has not abated and still requires a concerted international response. To date, Canada has contributed $8 million to the Nuclear Security Fund as part of our continuing commitment to the *Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*. Canada is proud to continue as the second largest donor state to the Nuclear Security Fund. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Agency on Canadian-funded nuclear security activities in Russia and the former Soviet Union. We continue to believe that the Agency's nuclear security activities are an integral part of efforts to strengthen nuclear security worldwide, to prevent, detect and respond to acts of nuclear terrorism. We encourage other Members to also contribute to these efforts and to the Nuclear Security Fund. Furthermore, to ensure consistent, sustainable, funding of critical activities outlined in the *Nuclear Security Plan*, Canada would like to see more nuclear security activities funded by the regular budget.

Canada has also continued its work to reinforce the security of our own nuclear facilities. I am pleased to inform this Conference that amendments to the Canadian *Nuclear Security Regulations* came into force in November 2006, strengthening the regulatory regime for the physical protection of nuclear facilities and substances in Canada.

Canada believes that international standards, and in particular IAEA safety standards, should play a central role in ensuring consistent safety approaches and common safety goals.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), our national nuclear regulator, is represented on the IAEA's Commission on Safety Standards and on the safety standards committees established thereunder, in the areas of radiation safety, nuclear safety, transport safety and waste management safety, and continues to use, where practical, international safety standards as well as all available science and operating experience in the effective regulation of nuclear activities in Canada.

To allow for further improvement of our regulatory processes, the CNSC is taking advantage of the IAEA's International Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) and has already initiated the first steps in that process. The IRRS Mission to Canada, which will be hosted in May 2009, will take a broad approach, covering most areas of the CNSC's regulatory mandate.

Canada, through the CNSC, also recognizes the importance of sharing regulatory experiences and good practices with our regulatory counterparts. Accordingly, and under the auspices of the IAEA, the CNSC looks forward to hosting the CANDU Senior Regulators' Meeting in Canada in November of this year. As this is the only forum that brings together the regulatory authorities of all countries operating CANDU nuclear power plants, Canada appreciates the support of the IAEA for the Group's activities.

Canada continues to exercise leadership in nuclear safety through the *Convention on Nuclear Safety.* At next week's Organizational Meeting, Canada will pass its presidency to another Contracting Party. We are proud of the outcomes that were achieved at the Third Review Meeting and we look forward to advancing the objectives of the Convention at the Fourth Review Meeting in April 2008, so as to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants worldwide and to demonstrate the actions being undertaken to improve nuclear safety.

Canada continues to strengthen its regulatory programmes to fully implement the provisions of the *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources,* including the associated IAEA guidance on the export and import of such sources, established under the Code. Canada has implemented a sealed source tracking system and national registry that strengthens controls over the use and movement of sealed sources.

These tools have been complemented by strengthened regulatory controls on the export and import of high-risk radioactive sources, which were implemented in early 2007. With these measures now in place, Canada fully meets the provisions of the IAEA *Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources*. Canada calls on Member States to continue to work together to ensure the consistent and harmonized implementation of these important standards and notes, in this regard, the encouraging outcomes of the June 2007 open-ended meeting on the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Research reactor safety is also important. Canada looks forward to participating in the upcoming IAEA International Conference on Research Reactors: Safe Management and Effective Utilization in November 2007 and to the discussion there on the implementation of the *Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors*. We believe the Code will contribute to the improvement and harmonisation of international practices.

Canada continues to maintain an important participation at all levels of development and implementation of the IAEA's *Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material*, which form the basis of Canadian regulations in this area. Canada is also actively engaged in resolving issues around denial of shipments of radioactive material by having representatives from the nuclear industry and from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the International Steering Committee on Denial of Shipments of Radioactive Material.

4. Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy:

I turn now to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the promotion of which is also one of the Agency's three pillars.

Mr. President, Canada is a nuclear power country. As noted at this year's G8 Heiligendamm Summit, Canada shares the belief that the use and development of safe, secure nuclear energy will contribute to global energy security, while simultaneously reducing air pollution and addressing the climate change challenge. We believe that nuclear power has a vital role, both domestically and internationally.

For Canada, nuclear energy is an important and integral part of our energy supply mix. Over the past year, there have been a number of very positive developments: there are now three applications for new reactors submitted to the CNSC, and progress is being made with significant reactor refurbishments.

We have a strong and vibrant nuclear industry, based on uranium supply, conversion and fuel fabrication, our CANDU heavy water reactor, and radioisotopes for research and the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Our industry is making a substantial contribution to the Canadian economy and a positive contribution to the environment; by generating electricity from CANDU reactors, we avoid the emission of some 90 million tonnes of greenhouse gases every year.

Canada's nuclear industry is global in scope. We have a lot to offer the international community and will continue to share our capabilities as a responsible nuclear supplier country. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) is well prepared to advance Canadian technology as it undertakes and proposes new projects both at home and abroad. Canada looks forward to the continued support of the Agency for pressurized heavy water reactor technology.

Looking forward, we see a future that is as full of promise as it was at the start of the nuclear era. Since then, there have been enormous advances in our understanding of nuclear technologies and their applications. Canada is ready to apply its expertise and technology to make a substantial contribution, both at home and around the world, to the safe, secure, and clean use of proliferation-resistant nuclear energy. To this end, Canada is very pleased that it will host the fourth annual Summer Institute of the World Nuclear University. The 2008 Summer Institute will be hosted by AECL, Bruce Power, Cameco and Ontario Power Generation, and will largely take place at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Supporting the advancement of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is a role that is central to the Agency's mission and its position as the world's principal nuclear energy organization. The IAEA brings together both technology developers and users, something Canada strongly supports and encourages. As more countries express their interest and

intentions to use nuclear power, or to expand their present use of it, the IAEA will need to provide its valuable advice and guidance. In this regard, an issue that deserves particular attention is the need for all countries to have a full appreciation and understanding of the infrastructure necessary to support nuclear power.

One of the Agency's programmes that has generated considerable international interest is the INPRO project. With its focus on innovative nuclear power and its expanding membership, which brings together technology developers and users, we value INPRO and see it as a natural complement to the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). We are actively engaged in and committed to GIF. AECL researchers are conducting work on super-critical water reactors at the Chalk River Laboratory. We foresee a Generation IV CANDU super-critical water reactor as part of the natural evolution of the CANDU, following the Generation II+ Enhanced CANDU 6, and the Generation III Advanced CANDU Reactor, which is now in the detailed engineering design stage.

Canada shares the growing interest in proliferation-resistant advanced nuclear fuel cycles. We believe that the CANDU technology, with its inherent fuel cycle flexibility, offers many advantages as a complement and transition to advanced fast reactor fuel cycles. We have also seen a renewed interest in proliferation-resistant thorium fuel cycles. This is something that would benefit greatly from enhanced international collaboration and has long been studied at the Chalk River Laboratories. There may be many benefits, including proliferation resistance, in the use of thorium-fuelled heavy water reactors.

Canada remains a strong supporter of the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities, ranging from insect sterilization to cancer therapy, and a major contributor to the TC Fund. We commend the Technical Cooperation Department for better prioritizing and answering more efficiently and effectively the management and reporting needs of donors and the development requests of recipient partners. We encourage these efforts to continue. Canada particularly appreciated the excellent Technical Cooperation Report for 2006, which was very useful in demonstrating the value of this programme. We call on all states to submit their voluntary contributions to the TC Fund on time and, to the extent possible, in full.

5. Closing Remarks:

In closing, I reaffirm Canada's strong commitment to the IAEA, its programmes and activities, and to the Director General and his very capable staff. This is an exciting time for nuclear energy, and we are sure that the IAEA will continue to make significant contributions to the ongoing and expanded use of nuclear technologies. With Canada's highly advanced nuclear sector and the confidence of the Agency's broader safeguards conclusion, we stand ready to expand the use of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine, to provide uranium as a reliable source of clean energy, and to advance peaceful nuclear power applications throughout the world.