



Opening Remarks of Canada at the IPNDV Annual Plenary Meeting Sydney, Australia - December 5, 2022

Delivered by Carmen MacDougall

Let me join Minister Ayres and Under Secretary Jenkins in welcoming all of you to this meeting of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

I also want to thank our Australian hosts for their warm welcome and generosity in organizing this meeting.

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Carmen MacDougall, and I'm Senior Vice President at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, an NGO based in Washington DC. NTI serves as part of the Executive Secretariat, and we are very proud to have worked with the IPNDV since its launch, in close partnership with the U.S. Department of State.

Our ability to participate in the IPNDV is thanks to generous funding from the governments of Norway and Canada, and in the past, from Sweden. That funding has helped diversify participation in the IPNDV. And it's supported the development of the IPNDV website, the portal, and critical tools for our collaboration and communication.

NTI, through a public-private partnership with the State Department, helped to launch the IPNDV in 2014. At the time, we felt that innovative approaches to verification could build capacity and confidence, transform thinking about what's possible to reduce nuclear risk, and spark political momentum to make progress against NPT commitments.

The world has gone through significant change since then, but the Partnership has grown in strength, focus, and creativity. And together, we've proven out our unique framework: the inclusion of countries with and without nuclear weapons as well as the public-private partnership between the State Department and NTI.

We believe that this work remains essential, even without active disarmament negotiations. In fact, this work remains essential especially without active disarmament negotiations. The IPNDV is developing knowledge and experience and relationships. Fostering this community and deepening our understanding of nuclear disarmament approaches, techniques, and technologies doesn't happen overnight.

This is an investment in the future. It's also an expression of optimism that the world will, one day, be ready to move in a positive direction towards a world without nuclear weapons. The IPNDV is making sure that we'll be ready for that moment.





It's great to see everyone in person and not just on screen. I join the Under Secretary in congratulating all the participants who have done such impressive work over the past two years, despite COVID. I'm sure you, like me, are looking forward to the discussions we'll have this week. Not just in large rooms but also over coffee, lunches, and dinners.

This week, we'll have an opportunity to reflect on what we've learned so far in the three phases of work. We've made significant progress in understanding what's needed to implement the 14-step model through our exercises, and we have also learned a lot about conducting exercises.

This experience with exercises is important as time between arms control initiatives grows. As current experts retire, and opportunities for new experts to negotiate or implement arms control agreements remain limited, knowing how to hold effective, realistic exercises may prove to be essential for making progress toward disarmament.

I was also glad to see that we'll be discussing outreach. We want to ensure that important audiences, especially in academia and policy circles, are aware of IPNDV's significant body of work.

Looking into the future, we also want to be thinking beyond the 14-steps. Disarmament verification will need to extend beyond weapons dismantlement, whether it's the management and disposition of materials, safeguarding more materials in peaceful uses, or protecting the knowledge and expertise that could lead to proliferation. We'll be talking about these topics as well.

The IPNDV is an extraordinary partnership. Thank you for your work to develop creative solutions for the tough challenges that lie ahead. I remain hopeful that we'll see a day when we go from paper to practice to policy to a more peaceful world.

Thank you.

