# Canada

## Position for the General Assembly First Committees

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## I.    Utilizing Advancements in Technology to Improve Global Security

Canada, as an innovative leader in maintaining cybersecurity, is eager to embrace an ever-changing technological world. Canada believes that together, the global community can develop a system of reliability, accountability, and interdependency that will allow each member state cybersecurity without infringing upon their sovereignty. Canada firmly believes that the only way cybersecurity can be achieved is through collaboration between each member state. In addition, if the international community promotes cybersecurity through collaborating not only between member states but through the inclusion of Non-State Actors (NSAs), we can build a dependency and reliability that will not infringe on privacy or sovereignty.

Domestically, Canada plans to set an example for other member states by implementing strong cybersecurity within its own borders. Realizing the growing significance of technology in every aspect of contemporary society, it is crucial to ensure a proactive cybersecurity policy that will cover all aspects of the digital world. Because of this, Canada understands that collaboration between the government, the private sector, and international partners is essential to the success of any technological policies. By utilizing intersectional relationships, rather than regulating them, Canada hopes to continue to generate revenue and innovation through providing additional economic support, providing education and resources for citizens and businesses, and establishing a National Cybercrime Coordination Unit.[1]

As Canada continues to develop a sophisticated and effective cybersecurity strategy, there is also the expectation that this will expand to include member states and other international partners. The desire is to create a system of both dependability and accountability among all member states.[2] In order to accomplish such an optimistic goal, it is necessary for all member states to put aside political history and move forward as a collective body.[3]

Despite the importance of securing cyberspace, Canada, understands that international security extends beyond the scope of cybersecurity and that there are multiple security challenges stemming from various modern technological advances. One of the primary threats to address is that of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), also referred to as "killer robots". The initial step towards assessing and preventing this threat must be to clearly define what a LAWS is and to establish clear boundaries on what technology can and cannot be categorized as such. Once this crucial step is accomplished, Canada fully supports the consideration of LAWS by the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).[4]

While achieving security through eliminating threats is imperative to global security, Canada recognizes that it is necessary to seize every opportunity that the advancement and innovation of technology provides. One approach is to consider the advantages of utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI). Taking into account the necessary policy regulations of AI, it must not be overlooked as a key resource in data collection and other advancements. Canada is taking steps both domestically and globally to use AI to accomplish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[5] Canada believes this exhibits the benefits between balancing utilization and regulation of technological advancement.

As technology continues to swiftly develop, Canada urges the global community to move forward arm in arm to generate economic and innovative growth in all sectors. Canada is eager to pursue sovereign cybersecurity

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[1] National Cyber Security Strategy Canada's Vision for Security and Prosperity in the Digital Age. (2018, June 12). Retrieved from https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg/index-en.aspx

[2] "Ibid."

[3] https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2018-10-26-info_telecommunications.aspx?lang=eng&_ga=2.53598376.1291440494.1551565711-140379716.1551565711

[4] Global Affairs Canada. (2018, January 25). Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Retrieved from https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/peace_security-paix_securite/conventional_weapons-convention_armes.aspx?lang=eng

[5] Agbedahin, A. V. (2019). Sustainable development, Education for Sustainable Development, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Emergence, efficacy, eminence, and future. Sustainable Development. doi:10.1002/sd.1931

through interdependent methods of reliable and transparent cooperation, establishing select boundaries for specific technology, and pursuing definite techniques to better obtain and administer data.

## II.  Preventing Violent Extremism by Non-State Actors

Canada firmly believes that one of the greatest threats to security in the twenty first century is violent extremism, specifically when exhibited by non-state actors (NSAs). Additionally, it is important to note that Canada understands violent extremism to be a result of individual or group radicalization which allows the advancement of their agenda through self-justified violence. It can then be proposed that acts of violent extremism are the result of rather than the culprit of this threat. This unique position allows Canada to proudly accept many refugees that numerous member states refuse to accommodate. Canada believes that it is essential to not only accept refugees into its borders, but to go a step beyond and exhibit additional humanitarian effort by helping these displaced people integrate into the society in which they have relocated.

Canada's innovative domestic policy to entirely prevent radicalization, therefore eliminating the threat of violent extremism, is grounded in extensive research and holistic performance. This evidence-based approach reaches beyond simple, well-intentioned methods that simply do not work for an incessantly evolving threat; but rather addresses radicalization through three primary approaches: early prevention, at-risk prevention, and disengagement. This can be best implemented through community-based efforts. By cultivating a society with a general public understanding of what promotes and deters radicalization, development regarding its prevention will occur. In addition, it is essential to progressively research all aspects of radicalizations, and network shared findings throughout the state. A primary resource for violent extremist groups is the platform presented by social media, further increasing the importance of community engagement through digital literacy and promotion of narratives differing from that of radical ideologies. Despite multi-faceted attempts to shield individuals from radicalization, an individual will occasionally require intervention and disengagement from radical ideology. This is promoted through various approaches based on an individual's needs and vulnerabilities.[6]

Make no mistake; Canada expresses utter comprehension of the severity of violent extremism. It is for this reason Canada advocates for prevention of radicalization, the most obvious indicator of eventual violence. However, it is sometimes necessary to intervene once an individual has become radical or even violent in some cases. Based on Canada's innovative approach, this can be best accomplished through the various methods listed above. However, it is imperative to maintain traditional strategies that combat violent extremism such as surveillance and investigations of suspected of radicalization and potential violence.[7]

Canada, in collaboration with partners among the five eyes and members of the Group of Seven (G7), hopes to serve as a model of effective and secure immigration policies for the rest of the global community. Canada suggests each member state cooperate to offer support to the many non-government organizations (NGOs) that aide refugees. This assistance will help establish a good foundation of support for new residents and will deter the violence that is believed to stem from extremism.  It is often forgotten in the politics of immigration, that these individuals, these *humans*, often must learn a new language, digest trauma, overcome anxieties induced by the new environment they have relocated to, and deal with an associated threat perception that the local people have constructed based on the perceived identity and association with violent non-state actors (VNSAs). . When creating policy, Canada reminds each member state to first remember that the refugees they will be hosting are only there because they have been dispersed from their state of origin due to persecution, war, or any other uncontrollable reason preventing them from individual security. Secondly, member states should recall that upon arrival to this secondary home, refugees are faced with adjusting to new language, culture, and environment.  By resisting, rather than integrating, host states may develop an extremely hostile situation, creating reciprocal radicalization between citizens and immigrants. Canada urges member states to offer education and professional development for incoming refugees to allow them to integrate into society with more ease. As Canada has witnessed within its own borders, this is effective in preventing potential radicalization to violence.[8]

Violent Extremism is a major threat to global and state security that must be combated from multiple directions. One such way to accomplish this is by working diligently to integrate refugees into the society they have migrated to. In addition, it is crucial to prevent ideological and reciprocal radicalization before these can foster into

[6] National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence. (2018, December 11). Retrieved from https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/ntnl-strtg-cntrng-rdclztn-vlnc/index-en.aspx

[7] "Ibid"

[8] Kaushik, V., & Drolet, J. (2018). Settlement and Integration Needs of Skilled Immigrants in Canada. Social Sciences, 7(5), 76. doi:10.3390/socsci7050076

violent extremism. Canada is enthusiastic to discuss potential solutions with all member states to develop a system that is beneficial for the security of *each* individual who makes up the global community.