

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS TRADITIONALLY REGARDED ITEM 11 AS ONE OF THE HIGH POINTS OF THE COMMISSION AGENDA. IT FEATURES DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTIONS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE FURTHER PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEARS. CANADA HAS CO-SPONSORED, FOR EXAMPLE, EARLIER TEXTS ON NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THESE REMAIN OF INTEREST AS IMPORTANT POINTS OF DEPARTURE IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO STIMULATE ACTIVITIES AND ACTION IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

THIS YEAR THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT TOPICS MERITING DISCUSSION. CANADA, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS, HAS DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF EARLIER SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION, THE ECOSOC AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATY-BASED MONITORING BODIES. WHILE EACH BODY HAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PROBLEMS, BASED IN PART ON THE CONVENTION OR COVENANT WHICH LED TO ITS CREATION, THE COMMON ELEMENTS ARE INADEQUACIES IN SECRETARIAT SERVICING, PROBLEMS WITH PERIODIC REPORTING, FINANCING SHORT-FALLS AND THE LIMITED TIME-TABLES FOR MEETINGS. IN SHORT, IT IS A SYSTEM IN A CHRONIC STATE OF CRISIS. IT NO LONGER FUNCTIONS AS ITS ARCHITECTS ONCE HOPED, AND REQUIRES TIME AND ENERGY IN ORDER TO SORT OUT DIFFICULTIES AND ARRIVE AT ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.