

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WISH FIRST OF ALL TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THIS CONFERENCE AND TO PLEDGE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF CANADA TO YOUR EFFORTS TO BRING IT TO A POSITIVE AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL DELEGATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

CANADA SUPPORTS THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES. FOR THE TIME BEING HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH AN OBJECTIVE IS NOT REALISTIC. THE IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE IS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CONVENTION IN ORDER THAT IT BETTER REFLECTS CHANGING INTERNATIONAL NORMS.

AS THIS REVIEW CONFERENCE PROCEEDS IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO WEIGH OUR PROGRESS CONSTANTLY AGAINST TWO BASIC CONSIDERATIONS. THE FIRST IS THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OR PRINCIPLES OF OUR CONVENTION. THESE ARE SET OUT CLEARLY IN ITS PREAMBLE BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CITE THREE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR SPECIFIC TASK HERE. THE FIRST IS:

- A) THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT UNDER STRICT AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND, IN THAT REGARD, THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE CODIFICATION AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICT;

TWO PHRASES CAN BE HIGHLIGHTED: "STRICT AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL" AND "PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT". THE OTHER TWO ARE: