

the Canadian objectives were to ensure that there was no derogation from standards in other human rights instruments upon which convention articles were based; that a clear distinction was made in the convention between state obligations relating to economic, social and cultural rights and those relating to civil and political rights; that any internal inconsistencies and overlaps in the text be corrected; and, where possible, that standards contained in certain key articles be raised. Though not all facets of these objectives were met, major improvements to the convention were achieved, thus making an important contribution to the elaboration of human rights standards.

Several issues relating to the convention proved to be contentious during the second reading, including freedom of religion, children in armed conflict and protection before birth. As a result, these issues, as well as the question of financing for the 10-person monitoring committee, may be raised at the CHR. On the financing question, Canada strongly supports UN financing to ensure that the Committee can function effectively. On certain other issues, extensive debate is likely to prove counter-productive and result in unsatisfactory compromises. Therefore, while Canada is prepared to consider any substantive amendments that would improve the text, the prime objective must be the adoption of the convention by the CHR.