

that it should be the task of this Conference to seek to strengthen the application of the Convention in realistic and operationally practicable ways. We hope this Conference will be able to reach agreement on a selection of measures to this end, which could be set out in politically binding form in the Final Document of this Conference, to be adopted by consensus. In particular, Canada would urge the desirability of building on the achievement of the First Review Conference by reiterating the right under Article V of any State Party to request the convening of a consultative meeting open to all States Parties at the expert level, and by stating the corresponding obligation of all directly concerned States Parties to respond positively to such a request through participation in the consultative meeting and by extending full co-operation in resolving any compliance-related questions. The Canadian Delegation is also ready to give constructive and positive consideration to other proposed measures which could strengthen confidence that the norm against biological weapons is being respected and raise the level of assurance that the legal obligations embodied in the Convention are in reality being adhered to by all States Parties.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the Canadian Delegation reaffirms before this body that Canada has never possessed biological weapons and continues in every respect to be in full compliance with