It seems to me that what is most important here is the spirit which lies behind the formulation of the convention. Not so many years ago it would have been inconceivable that a Committee representative of so many nations could have met to consider this subject. The fact that we are able to do so now, is, I suggest, indicative in itself of a very considerable step forward.

I shall not take up the time of the Committee to explain the point of view of my delegation on the many amendments we have before us today. It is, I am sure, the objective of all of us to do what we can to produce a clear, short and effective document which can be widely accepted. There will obviously be cases in the countries from which we come which are exceptional, and the convention should be broad enough to provide for their legitimate needs, for I am sure that it was not the intention of those who designed the convention to work a hardship on any

que problems in many regions of the acceptance of social legislation of this kind presents unique problems in many regions of the world today, where age-old customs and traditional ways of life are difficult to alter. For this reason my delegation thinks it particularly important that the convention should be a flexible one - flexible enough to take into account the wide divergence of view which prevails without destroying its effectiveness as a legal instrument to meet the purposes for which it is intended. These are the general considerations which will guide us when we considerations which will guide us when we come to consider the various amendments estilucitité ed to eraws era ew elidw

noum yrev orle era ew reintance ynam rot resents for many convention. The effectiveness eldereliste exaction or such a convention. The effectiveness eldereliste or very a or themselves exaction or such a convention or such a

extent upon the social and economic conditions which exist in



The convention will help to bring about the necessary social and economic changes whi.

In my own countr

To wirtue of which the legislative powers are divided between the federal and provincial governments. As at least some of the the federal and provincial soonvention would appear to fall within the provincial field of jurisdiction, canada is therefore not the provincial field of jurisdiction until the provinces have been the provincial field of jurisdiction until the provinces have been the provincial field of jurisdiction until the provinces have been the provincial field of jurisdiction until the provinces have been the provinces to these circumstances, the Canadian delegation will also convention. In doing so, have to abstain in the voting on this convention. Ganada beartily the convention has very worthy objectives, which Canada beartily the convention has very worthy objectives, which Canada heartily

In Canada, the consent to marriage of both parties has always been required. In the provinces a minimum age for marriage always been required the parents or guardians, has been set, without the consent of the parents of circumstances, provision is made usually at 18. In exceptional circumstances, hegistration of by the courts for the marriage of minors, hegistration of marriages has been compulsory for many years in Canada.

Our dansdien women's groups have been for many years keenl therested in social legislation and are frequently in touch with the sovernment authorities on matters which are of direct concern the government authorities on matters which are of direct concern to them. They have often been responsible for changes in legislat to them. They have often been responsible for women in Canada, which have improved immeasurably the status of women to vote), which have instrumental in obtaining the right of women to vote). I know from may own experience in the Canadian House of Commons the they are very much in sympathy with the splendid objectives which they are very much in sympathy with the splendid objectives which are embodied in this convention.