

MR. CHAIRMAN,

ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS CHAIR OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU. YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT YOU WILL HAVE THE CANADIAN DELEGATION'S FULL COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL SESSION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

ONCE AGAIN, THE THIRD COMMITTEE IS FOCUSSED ITS ATTENTION ON ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING HUMANITY TODAY, THAT OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS NOTED THAT IT CONSIDERED THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT WILL TAKE EVERY OUNCE OF OUR COLLECTIVE RESOLVE TO ATTAIN THIS OBJECTIVE.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME UNDENIABLE ADVANCES, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA OR RELATED INTOLERANCE AT THE 49TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. CANADA WELCOMES THE NOMINATION OF MR. ROBERT DOSSOU FROM BENIN TO THIS POSITION AND ASSURES HIM OF OUR FULL SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS TASK. WE APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS TO DO THE SAME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONSIDERING HIS FIRST REPORT AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

MOREOVER, VARIOUS IMPORTANT GUIDING INSTRUMENTS EXIST, SUCH AS THE RECENTLY ADOPTED DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES, OR ARE BEING DEVELOPED, SUCH AS THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. THE THIRD DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND THE MAJORITY OF STATES ARE PARTY TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE CONVENTION - AND THE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO IT - ARE AN IMPORTANT KEY TO OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RACISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS YEAR CANADA WILL BE SUBMITTING ITS TWELFTH REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE. WE URGE ALL STATES PARTIES TO FULFILL THEIR REPORTING OBLIGATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON A TIMELY BASIS. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE DECISION TO AMEND THE CONVENTION IN ORDER TO FUND THE COMMITTEE FROM THE REGULAR UN BUDGET. THIS HAS BEEN A LONGTIME CANADIAN INITIATIVE THAT WE HAVE PURSUED IN SUCCESSIVE UNGA AND CHR RESOLUTIONS. WE URGE STATES PARTIES TO RATIFY THIS AMENDMENT SO THAT IT CAN BE PUT INTO FORCE.