

as important, we must take care to conduct ourselves in this Conference in ways that are supportive of and in no way undermine or prejudice that negotiating effort.

As seen by the Canadian delegation, our task here will be twofold: to examine dispassionately the operation of the Convention since its entering into force; and to consider ways in which the effectiveness of its application might be strengthened so as to increase the level of assurance that all parties are adhering rigorously to their obligations.

Mr. President, it is a truism that all areas of arms control and disarmament involve a kind of race between the ceaseless advances of science and technology and the ability of policymakers and lawmakers to ensure that such advances are used to strengthen rather than to undermine international peace and security. In the field of biotechnology, this tension between scientific and technical advance -- which can be of inestimable value for enhancing the health, comfort and security of peoples everywhere -- and the potential for misuse for non-peaceful purposes, is especially acute. Since the time when the Convention entered into force, even since the First Review Conference, there have been major advances in numerous aspects of biotechnology. The material put before us by the Depository Governments makes this