

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE FIRST OF ALL TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL PLEASURE TO SEE YOU PRESIDE OVER OUR WORK THIS YEAR. IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT YOU WOULD GUIDE OUR WORK ON THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM, CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT YOUR COUNTRY AND YOURSELF HAVE PLAYED IN THE TWO CONFERENCES THAT WERE HELD LAST YEAR, AGAINST SPECIFIC MANIFESTATIONS OF TERRORISM.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DELEGATION'S THANKS TO MR. FLEISCHHAUER, THE ORGANIZATION'S LEGAL ADVISOR, FOR HIS VERY HELPFUL PRESENTATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT (A/44/456). MY DELEGATION WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS CANADA'S APPRECIATION OF THE UPDATE OF THE STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT TERRORISM REFERRED TO BY MR. FLEISCHHAUER. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RATIFIED THESE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS. WE SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION THAT HAS BEEN MADE, THAT THIS INFORMATION COULD USEFULLY BE PROVIDED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

MR CHAIRMAN, IN THE TWO YEARS THAT HAVE ELAPSED SINCE WE LAST DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED ITS DETERMINATION TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE THE MISERY AND SUFFERING ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORISM.