

MECHANISMS; AND, BY MORE COST-EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES. BUT - TO BRING US BACK TO OUR CENTRAL PURPOSE HERE IN VIENNA DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS - WE MUST ENSURE THAT KEY INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS OUR CONVENTION ARE AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

HOW CAN WE DO SO?

FIRST, AS REGARDS THE CONVENTION ITSELF, CANADA BELIEVES WE SHOULD IN A FORCEFUL DECLARATION COLLECTIVELY CALL UPON ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BECOME STATES PARTIES. OBVIOUSLY, THE MORE UNIVERSAL ITS STATUS THE MORE EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE. WE SHOULD ALSO RESPOND IN A PRACTICAL WAY TO THE RAPIDLY-CHANGING WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE BY AMENDING THE CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FOR A REVIEW EVERY FIVE YEARS. WE MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT A WORKABLE MECHANISM IS INCORPORATED INTO THE CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FOR MONITORING AND ADDRESSING COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS. AND, FINALLY, WE MUST ENSURE ITS SCOPE IS PROGRESSIVELY ENHANCED AS NEW ISSUES EMERGE. IN THIS REGARD CANADA WELCOMES THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A NEW PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE USE OF LASER WEAPONS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CAUSE PERMANENT BLINDNESS.

AS WELL AS DEALING WITH THESE OBJECTIVES WE SHOULD CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION TO ENSURE IT FULLY ADDRESSES CURRENT CHALLENGES. HERE OUR OVERRIDING RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENSURE PROTOCOL II EFFECTIVELY DEALS WITH THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF LAND MINES. THE SEVERITY AND MAGNITUDE OF THIS "HUMANITARIAN DISASTER", AS SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI HAS DESCRIBED IT, ARE KNOWN TO US ALL. WE ARE BEING CAREFULLY WATCHED TO SEE WHETHER