

Mr. President,

The Canadian Delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. As has frequently been observed, this Convention has a quality of uniqueness in being the first multilateral agreement concluded with the purpose of effectively eliminating permanently from the earth an entire category of weapons. The strict adherence of all parties to all the terms and obligations of the Convention is thus a matter of similar importance. So, too, is the need for universality of adherence to the Convention and the norms which it embodies.

We should also not lose sight of the fact that when the Convention was concluded, as reflected in its preamble and in Article IX, it was seen as an important step toward the effective prohibition of chemical weapons. The negotiations to that end in the recently completed session of the Conference on Disarmament give cause for cautious hope that the prospects for the attainment of this objective have improved. It would be appropriate for the Conference to urge that the serious pursuit of those negotiations be intensified. Just