Intervention on Article 8
May 11
(Check against delivery)

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.

At the May 29-30, 2000 meeting of this Standing Committee, Canada presented a paper regarding the Article 8 framework for facilitating compliance with the Ottawa Convention.

While it was accepted that that the provisions of Article 8 are sufficiently clear as a legal text, it was seen that efforts be made to discuss practical considerations related to any possible operationalization of the Article.

The desire to proceed with such discussions was noted in the Second Meeting of the States Parties' President's Action Program.

Since last May, there have been expert reviews, Standing Committee discussions and consultations with States Parties.

As a result of these efforts, Canada was pleased to have circulated a paper which provides Canada's final reflections on work undertaken over the past year related to Article 8 of the Convention and other means available to clarify matters related to questions of compliance.

This paper was provided to the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs at the May 2 meeting of the Coordinating Committee and on May 3 was faxed to the Permanent Missions of all States Parties in Geneva.

For the most part, this paper has been drafted simply as a reflection of points that have been developed that States Parties may wish to consider as guidance, but in full and explicit recognition of the rights retained by States Parties under the Convention.

The only recommendation Canada is making to this Standing Committee is quite modest – to consider that the dialogue that has commenced this year be part of an ongoing process.

Before I get to that recommendation, let me briefly mention that guidance has been suggested in the following areas:

- Article 8 in the broader spectrum of clarifying compliance, where consideration could be given to the manner in which Article 8 mechanisms.
- Information to help facilitate the clarification of compliance.
- Financial and process issues related to Meetings of the States Parties.
- Administrative, financial and logistical issues related to fact-finding missions.
- Team composition and skill sets
- Mandates for fact-finding missions.

Attached to the paper is a draft template that States Parties may wish to make use of in identifying experts and in submitting their names to the UN Secretary General.

However, once again this element of our paper is being provided simply as suggested guidance and – of course – States Parties retain the right to submit names using other formats or means, including through the use of a template which was developed by and circulated to States Parties by the United Nations in April 1999.

As I mentioned, the only recommendation that Canada is making is for Standing Committee participants to consider that a process continues.

On some matters, a variety of ideas exists on the Article 8 and the facilitation and clarification of compliance, but a common reference point that we have identified lies in ensuring an ongoing process of dialogue and cooperation.

Therefore the Standing Committee may wish to undertake further expert work and discussions in a few select areas.

While with this meeting Canada's role in facilitating a certain part of an ongoing process may be coming to a close, we offer our encouragement to you, the Co-Chairs, to the future Co-Chairs, and to other States Parties for continuing leadership on this matter.

Let me close by expressing our gratitude to those who have contributed to the effort by offering views and ideas during the course of the past year.

Thank you.