

8. In the absence of universal support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can make a useful contribution to the nuclear non-proliferation objective where they promote stability and security at both regional and international levels and command the support of the major countries of the area. Canada has voted in favour of United Nations resolutions calling for the establishment of such zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. We have also supported measures which would consolidate a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America under the Treaty of Tlatelolco. In December 1986, a new nuclear-free zone was created in the South Pacific under the Treaty of Rarotonga. This zone further expands the geographical area officially free of nuclear weapons.
9. At the global level, significant progress has been made in the negotiations on a comprehensive, effectively verifiable, global ban on chemical weapons within the Conference on Disarmament. While complex legal and technical details remain to be worked out, the third special session should give full recognition to the progress which has been made in this area.
10. Also in the Conference on Disarmament, the Group of Scientific Experts has made considerable progress in the past two years in developing a global seismic monitoring network, which would be required to verify an eventual comprehensive test ban treaty. We are very pleased that the Canadian representative has been selected to co-ordinate a major future test of the global seismic data exchange. While much work remains to be done before a workable monitoring network which would inspire the confidence of the parties concerned can be put in place, the Group of Experts is moving in the right direction. In order to enhance the effectiveness of its work, Canada urges the fullest possible participation in the work of the Group of Experts and co-operation in promoting the Group's objectives.
11. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is one of the most important arms control and disarmament objectives the international community has set for itself. Of the numerous existing international treaties which define the kinds of military activities that can legitimately be conducted in outer space, the most significant one is the outer space Treaty of 1967. This is the closest we have to a "constitution" for outer space. We must support the spirit and specific provisions of that treaty, including its ban on the stationing of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in outer space.
12. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 between the United States of America and the USSR is also a key element of the existing legal régime governing the role of arms in outer space. The manner of its interpretation and application is without doubt of interest to the international community as a whole. We urge strict compliance with that treaty as signed.
13. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is also an important agenda item at the Conference on Disarmament. The Conference has been attempting to determine what additional international legal measures, if any, may be necessary to prevent an arms race in outer space. Some useful work has been done in clarifying the existing legal régime governing military activities in outer space and a variety of suggestions have been made for possible additional measures.