

of The Netherlands, toward a draft resolution, and by the Mexican and other Latin American delegations, toward draft conventions, with reference to the second sub-item of our agenda, the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman, let us hope that the Committee will see its way clear to proceeding immediately with the task before it, namely the detailed consideration of the sub-items, without taking up much more time on procedure. In formulating this wish, we cannot, of course, close our eyes to the intrinsic difficulties of procedure and treatment which are involved owing to the importance and high level of the subject matter.

The task of this Committee is difficult enough in cases where the Sixth Committee deals with draft instruments or recommendations carefully developed by the International Law Commission after much study and discussion and relating to specific and well-defined areas of the law. It becomes a much more difficult endeavour when the subject matter of the study consists in the very principles governing the fundamental rights and duties of States.

Fortunately, however, the task of the Committee is simplified by the existence of the Charter of the United Nations, itself the fundamental statement of principles of international law, providing both a guide and an anchor for the Committee's studies. For this reason, we think that this study can be beneficial in itself and might achieve some beneficial results.

While the Committee as a whole, as several delegations have already started doing, embarks upon the detailed consideration of the substance of each topic, a steering committee or an ad hoc group might, for the remainder of this session, help iron out procedural difficulties. Whatever other accessory functions are entrusted to such a group, its existence should not, we trust, stifle or short-circuit the earnest and serious consideration of the topics listed in Resolution 1815 by the full Committee.