but of the respective national interests of various states as they see them with respect to each of these issues, and, I would suggest, the general interest of the international community as a whole in the resolution of these problems. Side by side with these negotiations, there have been on-going negotiations on the broad outlines of solutions to a number of specific problems, which I shall refer to a little later. It is thus a truism that the Law of the Sea Conference has, in a sense, already begun.

It is important to note also, as a number of delegations have reminded us, that we have embarked upon a major restructuring of the Law of the Sea, not a mere codification exercise, as was in large part the case in 1958. As a consequence, our task is more complex, the situation more fluid, and it is less easy to determine the precise extent of the progress on any single issue. A further complicating factor is that much of the substantive negotiation goes on outside the Seabed Committee. I refer, for example, to the results of the Stockholm Environmental Conference, the Afro-Asian Consultative Committee meeting of last year, the Santo Domingo Conference of Caribbean States, the African States' Regional Seminar in Yaoundé, the recently-concluded London Conference on Ocean Dumping, and the preparatory meetings for the IMCO Pollution Conference, as well as to the many proposals on specific issues advanced in many different forums, be they governmental or private.

Taking all these developments into account, it is clear that, while we do not have existing draft articles on all of the issues before us, nor even generally-accepted draft articles on any single problem area, we do have clear evidence of developing trends on particular issues which provide us with what a number of delegations have termed a "blueprint" for the future structure of the Law of the Sea.

What are these trends?

In the view of the Canadian delegation, the general willingness of states to reconsider their rights and obligations as they are affected by both new and traditional uses of the seas is the major development in the field of international law over recent years. Only developments in the law of outer space and of the environment can come close to ranking in importance with this trend. The Law of the Sea has for centuries reflected the common interest in freedom of navigation. Only in the past two decades has it begun to reflect the common interest in the resources of the seabed. Only in the last decade has it begun to reflect the common interest in conserving the living resources of the sea. Only in the past few years has it begun to reflect the common interest in the preservation of the marine environment itself. Only in the past few years have we even begun to think of an international regime for the area of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction. The law is, however, beginning to change. It has already been altered by state practice and it will be transformed further by any successful Law of the Sea Conference. No more radical or more constructive concept can be found in international law than the principle of the "common heritage of mankind". Only in the field of outer-space law can we find an analogous example of a common commitment to the negation of sovereignty in the common