

commanding universal support. Before a convention can be adopted, the Conference has still to resolve the outstanding and most difficult issues, in particular the regime applicable to the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction. There are still differences of view on the question of access to the deep seabed mineral resources by private and state entities on the one hand and the International Enterprise on the other hand. Intersessional discussions produced, for the first time, a constructive dialogue on this issue which gives solid ground for believing that an accommodation between opposing views will be realized at the next session. Nevertheless, exacting negotiations lie ahead on this and related issues as well as on such other questions as marine scientific research in the economic zone, coastal state powers to protect the marine environment, the rights of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states and settlement of disputes.

In light of the substantial progress already achieved and without minimizing the difficult issues still to be resolved, Canada remains firmly committed to the realization of a new comprehensive law of the sea convention and the Canadian Delegation will be working actively to that end at the forthcoming session.