

problem of drafting law in an area in which man is still largely ignorant of the scientific, technological and geographic problems, the Canadian delegation considers that the subject is of such potential importance that the Outer Space Committee has a responsibility to discuss it. Moreover, through discussion in the Outer Space Committee, we would expect to gain greater knowledge of the scope of the problem. When there is agreement in the Outer Space Committee on a specific principle, the Committee should record that agreement and recommend it to the General Assembly for approval. These new principles would be added to the two basic principles which the General Assembly has already approved in its Resolution 1721 and which I now quote:

1. "International law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies" and
2. "Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all states in conformity with international law and are not subject to national appropriation".

With this approach in mind, my delegation considers it important that all suggested principles should be carefully considered by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee - the members of which are specialists in outer space law - and subsequently by the Outer Space Committee before being submitted to the General Assembly for approval. This is a necessary precaution. In addition to the need for precise language which is essential wherever the law is concerned, there is the problem I have already referred to of uncertainty on the technical and scientific side.