

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, in my address to the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly which I referred to earlier I stressed the benefits to this and future generations of a comprehensive treaty on the Law of the Sea. I should like to reiterate at this time what I said then about the desirability of resolving the many difficult Law of the Sea issues with which we are grappling by means of a multilateral agreement of universal application. I should like to reiterate the longstanding position of the Canadian Government that only if the multilateral approach fails will my Government resort to other solutions. I remain of the view, however, that at a certain point in time further delay or procrastination constitutes failure and that point is rapidly approaching. My Government considers it absolutely essential that we conclude the Law of the Sea Conference in 1976.

Mr. President, I cannot over emphasize the importance of the role of binding dispute settlement procedures as an integral part of the multilateral treaty we are all seeking. I pointed out in my address to the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly that although in 1945 the founders of the United Nations believed they had devised a system for the settlement of disputes between nations without recourse to the use of