

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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BY THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE, MR. P.A. BISSONNETTE  
IN THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Mr. Chairman,

Since our Committee last met, its three subsidiary bodies have achieved significant results. We should not lose sight of these achievements as we pursue our efforts towards full international co-operation in outer space.

The Legal Sub-Committee has solved some difficult problems in its drafting of the thirteen generally agreed articles, the preamble and the title of the draft liability convention. It is a matter of deep regret for us that no consensus has been achieved with respect to two additional articles which we consider of the utmost importance.

The distinguished delegates will recall that in Geneva earlier this summer, the Canadian Delegation joined with seven other delegations (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom) in putting forward draft articles on the "Measure of Compensation" and the "competence of the claims commission." The two proposed articles would first enshrine the principle that the damaged party should be restored in full to the condition which would have existed if the damage had not occurred and second, stipulate that the decision of the Claims Commission shall be final and binding. There is no need for me to review in detail the well-known position of Canada on these issues. However,