

since it indicates that, despite the risks to which I have referred, they are confident that the challenge can be met.

In the draft, so painstakingly prepared by the International Law Commission, there are many articles which, in the view of my Delegation, enunciate desirable legal principles which will be difficult to apply in practice in the absence of parallel provisions for compulsory settlement of disputes. The articles dealing, for example, with peremptory norms of international law and with the effect of change of circumstances are among the most important but by no means the only examples of articles requiring in their application highly subjective judgements. It is the Canadian view that perhaps the greatest challenge that will face governments at the forthcoming conference will be to discover a satisfactory method of applying the principles of international law enunciated in the draft articles to the every-day treaty activities of states. This, after all, is surely the purpose of the Convention -- not merely to enunciate the law in the abstract but to enunciate it in such a manner that it will gain wide acceptability, receive effective application and keep to a minimum the possibility of disputes. Nothing is more likely to hold the international legal community up to disrepute than a series of disputes over a treaty intended to prevent treaty-disputes. Yet the one thing missing is a provision for effective means of settling such disputes. Perhaps it would be helpful if I were to indicate briefly at least some of the points on which, in the view of my Delegation, the conference will have to exercise particular care.