

the Convention for deep seabed mining. The PrepCom met in New York City in August-September, 1986, and in Kingston, Jamaica, from March 30, 1987, to continue its efforts to develop suitable mechanisms for implementation of the regime outlined in the Convention for the exploitation of deep seabed resources.

As a major land-based mineral producer and potential seabed mining nation, Canada has a fundamental interest in the complex issues being addressed by the PrepCom. Many industrialized countries (including Canada) have expressed concern about aspects of the deep seabed mining regime under the LOS Convention and consider it essential that the PrepCom's efforts result in a regime that encourages universal participation in the Convention. The outcome of the work of the PrepCom will, therefore, be an important factor for these states in determining whether or not to ratify, or accede to, the LOS Convention.

Pursuant to Resolution II of the final session of the LOS Conference, the PrepCom is also engaged in efforts to protect investments made in deep seabed mining prior to entry into force of the Convention. On September 5, 1986, the PrepCom adopted a "Statement on the Implementation of Resolution II". That statement fixed a timetable leading, in principle, to registration of the seabed mining claims of the first group of applicants (France, Japan, India and the USSR) and called on interested parties to undertake inter-sessional discussions with a view to resolving outstanding "practical problems" (i.e. overlapping mining site claims of the USSR and private consortia that have received licences under the national legislation of non-signatory states). As a "potential applicant", Canada has played a leading role in these inter-sessional discussions which, due to lack of time, were not completed prior to the start of the Kingston PrepCom session. In view of the continuing nature of these discussions, the first group of applicants have not submitted applications for registration as "pioneer investors", as anticipated in the September 5 statement.

## Human rights and social affairs

Human rights are an integral element of Canadian foreign policy and human rights issues are pursued both bilaterally and multilaterally. Standard-setting activities at the international level continue to be important, and Canada continues to participate in areas as diverse as international aboriginal rights and the rights of migrant workers. Canada voted in favour of the Declaration on the Right to Development at the Forty-first Session of the UN General Assembly, which carried by a large majority. Canada will ratify the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, having completed changes to federal legislation; consultations with provincial authorities are to be held prior to the deposit of our instruments of ratification. Once this Convention is ratified, Canada will have an effective record of ratification of all of the major international human rights instruments.

Canada also participated in the human rights reporting functions of the United Nations and in March 1987 submitted its seventh and eighth reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. An extensive

consultative network, involving provincial, territorial and federal authorities, has enabled Canada to present comprehensive reports to international bodies incorporating all available information on the state of human rights within the country. This same consultative network, meeting twice yearly and on occasion at the ministerial level, will provide the lead role in ensuring timely Canadian reports under the major international instruments; it will assist as well in specific functions, such as celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1988.

Canada will seek re-election to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1988, and participated actively in the work of the Commission during the past year, with a delegation headed by Mr. Gordon Fairweather, Canada's Human Rights Commissioner. Canada co-sponsored some twenty resolutions at Commission meetings. Our initiatives included a resolution, which was approved by the Economic and Social Council, to create a voluntary fund for the promotion of human rights. This fund will provide support for a variety of developmentally-oriented projects, mainly in the Third World. The UN Centre for Human Rights will eventually work out the modalities whereby governments, inter-governmental bodies and NGOs can participate in the work of the fund.

Canada's main statement to the Commission expressed concern at continuing violations of human rights in many parts of the world. It stressed the need for improving the UN's machinery in order that treatment of evidence, presentations of allegations, decisions for action by the Commission and other matters are judged more objectively and less by political factors. Prior to the session of the Commission, the Department arranged consultations with Canadian NGOs in the field of human rights, as it has done in earlier years. During the past year, however, these consultations were more extensive and included a variety of topics, such as international indigenous questions, which were new to the consultative agenda.

Canadian missions abroad continued their program of reporting on human rights questions, conveying Canadian views and assisting persons and groups in support of human rights objectives. CIDA has authorized numerous projects in the broad area of human rights, including many by NGOs. These provide a tangible link between human rights and development assistance efforts. In a number of visits abroad by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and other ministers and senior officials, human rights issues were taken up bilaterally and underscored the Canadian Government's concern. As Mr. Clark emphasized in the response of the government to the Report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations, human rights are and will remain a fundamental part of Canadian foreign policy.

## Global equality issues

The year under review was the first year after the close of the "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace," a decade in which three world conferences on women's issues took place with a general raising of the international community's awareness of the role and status of women in global development. It has become clear at international meetings in a variety of