

Committee of the General Assembly has had on its agenda a Philippine initiative on the question of the progressive development of principles and norms of International Economic Law and is about to consider a comprehensive study on this question prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. As a supporter of the basic objectives of the NIEO, Canada can support well-developed initiatives to identify and consolidate principles relating to International Economic Law provided that such efforts do not narrowly focus on particular instruments such as U.N. resolutions to the exclusion of important sources of international law such as customary international law.

On the technical level, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law established in 1980 a working group on the legal aspects of the New International Economic Order, which has decided to undertake work on international contracts of industrial development. Its first exercise in this context bears on contracts relating to the construction of large industrial works and is likely to lead to the drafting of a legal guide on this subject. This is an interesting case where, in spite of a very broad mandate and substantive differences in perceptions between developed and developing states, a UN legal body has been able to work constructively on technical legal questions in the NIEO context.

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