

ensuring adequate standards and a share in the enforcement of these standards. We therefore submitted comprehensive proposals providing for broad coastal state powers to enforce international environmental rules within a 200 mile economic zone and to apply national standards to foreign vessels in the territorial sea and in areas beyond where unique ecological circumstances, such as in the Canadian Arctic, so warranted.

4. Considerable progress has been achieved on this question at the Conference. Negotiations at the most recent session confirmed growing support among states in favour of a global approach to the protection of the marine environment, including a general obligation to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from any source, and an enhanced role for coastal and port states, concurrently with flag states, in enforcing anti-pollution rules and standards. These principles are clearly embodied in the Informal Composite Negotiating Text which was issued by the Conference President at the conclusion of the sixth session in July. The Composite Text, which represents a major step forward in the negotiating process at the Conference, will provide the basis for decisions leading eventually to the adoption of a draft convention, provided parallel progress is made in resolving other outstanding issues, in particular the international system of deep seabed mining, the precise definition of the outer edge of the continental margin and the rights of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states.