

The Canadian Government considers that Principle 21 (formerly 18) reflects customary international law in affirming the principle that states have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, "the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction".

The Canadian Government considers that the secondary consequential Principle 22 (formerly 19) reflects an existing duty of states when it proclaims the principle "that States should co-operate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction".

The Canadian Government considers also that the tertiary consequential principle contained in the Draft Declaration on the Human Environment as it first came before us in plenary (former Principle 20 not now contained in the Draft) on the duty of states to inform one another considering the environmental impact of their actions upon areas beyond their jurisdiction also reflected a duty under existing customary international law, when it proclaimed, in essence the principle "that relevant information must be supplied by States on activities or developments within their jurisdiction or under their control whenever there is reason to believe that such information is needed to avoid the risk of significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdiction".

These legal principles, taken together with the important and closely related marine-pollution principles and the draft articles on a proposed dumping convention, on which we have already taken action, together provide us with an opportunity to work together in a co-operative spirit of conciliation and accommodation (accommodation not only as between differing national interests but as between national interests and the interests of the international community) to elaborate laws that will protect us all by protecting our environment. Let us grasp this opportunity.

I should like before concluding to refer to the vital question of the dangers posed to all humanity by nuclear tests. Canada is a party to the partial test-ban treaty: We worked as hard as any other state to bring about its conclusion. For Canada, it is not only an arms-control treaty; it is an important environmental-protection treaty. Canada is a party to the non-proliferation treaty, which is also both an arms-control and, by implication, an environmental-protection treaty. Canada is also a party to the Seabed Arms Control Treaty, which also has important environmental as well as arms-control implications. Even so, we regard these measures as only the first steps, essential though they are.