

I WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON ONE PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPERLY ENCOURAGES STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO TO BECOME PARTIES TO THE CONVENTIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AND PUNISH ACTS OF TERRORISM. INDEED, THE DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL STEPS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM. A LEGAL INSTRUMENT, HOWEVER, IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DRAFT RESOLUTION URGES ALL STATES TO FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO TAKE PROMPTLY ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT TO WHICH THEY ARE PARTY. TOO OFTEN, STATES HAVE IGNORED THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, RELEASING ALLEGED OFFENDERS AND THEREBY UNDERMINING THE OFTEN DIFFICULT WORK THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE OFFENCES COVERED IN THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS ARE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES, WHICH STATES ARE BOUND TO PUNISH. IT IS NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THIS PRINCIPLE IS QUICKLY BECOMING HAS BECOME ONE OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW, PARTICULARLY IN THE REALM OF INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, DUE TO THE BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONVENTIONS INVOLVED.