

It is the Canadian view that a comprehensive system of compulsory dispute settlement should be an integral part of the Law of the Sea Convention. It follows that the inclusion of an optional protocol leaving it open to States to accept or reject compulsory third party adjudication would not merely constitute a second best solution but a failure of the Conference on a central issue.

As to the most suitable procedure, we have not yet adopted a firm position. The Canadian Delegation will continue to promote the elaboration of provisions which, while reflecting the basic approach to the subject which I have just outlined, seem likely to command broad support within the Conference.

I welcome the personal initiative of the President in presenting the Conference with a text on the settlement of disputes. While we have reservations as to a number of specific aspects of this text, we welcome its introduction and congratulate you, Mr. President, on the leadership which you have shown in this regard. At this point, I feel it appropriate also to note that your text draws heavily upon the work of an informal group of experts chaired by Ambassador Harry of Australia, Ambassador Galindo Pohl of El Salvador and a distinguished member of the Delegation of