

Mr. President, I turn now to the business at hand, which is the adoption of a new instrument to extend the provisions of the 1971 Montreal Convention to acts of violence perpetrated at international airports. I would like to note at the outset that the solutions proposed by the Legal Committee were the object of thorough discussion and ample reflection. The Canadian delegation is satisfied with these elements of agreement, and does not intend to reopen debate on any of them. We will rather focus our attention on the four issues which the Legal Committee specifically referred to the Diplomatic Conference, namely:

- jurisdiction and extradition;
- preventive measures;
- participation of States in the new instrument if they are not parties to the Montreal Convention; and
- "aircraft not in service at the airport".

The Canadian delegation will return to these issues in the course of the debate, and, of course, will favour solutions which will lead to the widest possible participation by States in the new instrument.

The international community attaches great importance to the successful outcome of our work. The speed with which ICAO has proceeded since the adoption of Resolution A26-4 bodes well in this respect.

Similarly, the outstanding spirit of co-operation and understanding which characterized the work of the Legal Committee gives me reason to be optimistic. I am convinced that we will live up to the expectation of the international community and open the new instrument for signature at the conclusion of this Conference.

But above all, what will enable us to reach this goal is our shared conviction that international terrorism can be neither excused nor tolerated; it must be fought.

I know that all of us here will spare no effort to further protect civil aviation from this plague.

Thank you for your attention.