

The third way of improving the capacity and performance of the Organization is through supplementary or subordinate international agreements which, while leaving the text and contents unchanged, define in greater detail the general provisions of the Charter. There are numerous instances of such subordinate consistent agreements; for example, as early as 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations spelled out in thirty-six sections the provisions of Articles 104 and 105 of the Charter.

A fourth way in which the Charter responds to the conflicting demands of progress and stability is through the processes of practice, evolution and interpretation. The United Nations has been actively involved in all major areas of concern to the members, including the process of decolonization and self-determination, the need to promote international development, and questions relating to the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid. It has effectively promoted international cooperation in specific areas not reflected in the Charter, such as the protection of the environment, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the development of an international legal regime for the oceans. The absence of any reference to peacekeeping in the Charter has not prevented the United Nations from making important and lasting contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security. Indeed, Canada's extensive experience in the field of peacekeeping has convinced my Government that concrete and pragmatic steps can be taken to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond to the needs and challenges of the international community without, in this case, the need for formal amendment.

In our view, there is an impressive range of techniques and modalities through which the purposes, principles and procedures of the United Nations can be more fully achieved. I would just mention a few possibilities, such as the elaboration of principles, the adoption of resolutions and declarations, the drafting of subsidiary agreements, the development of the organization's customary constitutional law, and the creation of specialized bodies for specific purposes, all of which underline the United Nations' extraordinary capacity for dynamic growth and adaptation to changing needs and conditions in the international community. If the United Nations has fallen short of its potential, the problem has not been juridical, but has reflected basic differences between states on how to give effect to their obligations and responsibilities under the Charter.

Charter reform is another way of improving the effectiveness of the United Nations. In this respect, I may say that Canada is prepared to give careful consideration to all specific proposals for revision of the Charter which command broad support among the members of the Organization and which do not endanger the basic framework of the United Nations. Parts of the Charter are outmoded. They no longer correspond to reality. Other parts have served very well the test of time.

In turning now to the report of the Special Committee, I would first of all express our appreciation to the distinguished Professor Broms for his contribution to the work of the Committee and for his introductory statement. My delegation is of the view that the method of work followed by the Committee - a detailed and methodical consideration of the Secretary-General's analytical study -- has provided a variety of new perspectives and ideas for