

Europe. The UN forums should take heed. We must look closely at that recipe for success.

We will have opportunity to do so in the days ahead, here at the First Committee. We are meeting at an auspicious time. The improved East-West negotiating climate has provided a positive momentum across the full range of arms control and disarmament issues. Our record from last year is good. An unprecedented number of resolutions were adopted by consensus. Work was conducted in a businesslike fashion. The atmosphere was cooperative and productive. Let us continue in that mode, so we can go forward to next year's UNDC, to the NPT Review Conference, and to the other items on the multilateral agenda with renewed energy. Our objectives this session must be to build on the progress we made last year, to reflect the progress happening outside this chamber and to arrive at consensus on resolutions that will contribute to future progress.

There are going to be differences of opinion. There is no point in trying to hide them. But we should not view the First Committee as an occasion merely to restate those differences. We should view it as an occasion to explore our differences with a view to narrowing them, with a view to finding common ground, with a view to reaching consensus. But it must be a genuine consensus, not a consensus of convenience. We should not view this as a forum for grand-sounding statements that we are not prepared to put into practice. If we want to keep pace with developments taking place in other forums, we must be pragmatic in seeking common ground.

With this in mind, Canada will be concentrating on a number of areas over the coming weeks.

Progress in the chemical weapons negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament has not been as dramatic as some may have hoped, given the expectations generated at the Paris Conference earlier this year. These expectations must be tempered, however, by recognition that questions of considerable complexity are now before the Ad Hoc Committee. The working groups established by this year's Chairman had many difficult tech-

nical and legal issues to consider, and they responded with extraordinary diligence and perseverance. We hope that a strengthened sense of purpose will be conveyed to the delegates in Geneva as a result of the highly-successful Government-Industry Conference Against Chemical Weapons, recently concluded in Canberra, Australia.

It has been suggested by some that convincing states to adhere to a chemical weapons convention, once concluded, might be a lengthy process. In fact, for many years, states have indicated in this Committee that they not only support a chemical weapons convention, but that they eagerly await its conclusion. Their votes in favour of resolutions calling for this agreement should be regarded as promises to be kept. The Canadian delegation, in close cooperation with the delegation of Poland, will aim to ensure that this Committee again registers by consensus its view on the urgency of concluding the negotiations for a global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons.

The conclusion of a verifiable comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty has long been, and remains, a fundamental Canadian objective. The progress being made in this area by the United States and the Soviet Union is welcome and should be energetically pursued. With other delegations, we will again be sponsoring a draft resolution urging steps toward the earliest achievement of a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

Because of its strong support for treaty-specific verification measures and in light of the procedures that regulate amendments to the PTBT, Canada did not view the initiative for an amending conference as likely to be either helpful or productive. However, now that the conference is to take place, we will, of course, participate constructively.

The verification of compliance with arms control and disarmament agreements continues to be a major focus of Canada's efforts in the multilateral field. Without provision for assurances that parties will abide by their treaty obligations, countries will be hesitant to sign arms control and disarmament agreements. Verification is the essential means

by which confidence in compliance is created. Canada was particularly pleased, last year, with the strong support given to our verification resolution, which endorsed the verification principles agreed upon by the UNDC and called on the Secretary-General to carry out an experts' study on verification. Canada was honoured to be chosen as chair of the group of experts carrying out the study and is pleased to report that the study is proceeding in an effective manner. We look forward to receiving the group's report at UNGA 45. To avoid prejudging the experts' report, and in view of our continued desire to rationalize the activities of this Committee, we do not think it necessary nor appropriate for us to propose a resolution on verification at this session.

As we enter the final decade of the century, the relative prominence of the United States and the Soviet Union as the two major powers in space is lessening. More and more states are developing the capability to conduct space research and to use outer space for legitimate commercial purposes. Such developments are welcome, as long as they do not contribute in any way to the development of an arms race in outer space. For this reason, the Canadian delegation will pay particular attention to the agenda item dealing with the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It is Canada's strong conviction that outer space is an area of legitimate multilateral concern, and that the question of whether additional legal measures may be required in this area is of broad international interest.

Canada continues to believe that a verifiable agreement on the cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes should be negotiated by the Conference on Disarmament at an appropriate stage of its work on the item "Nuclear Weapons in all Aspects." To promote this objective, the Canadian delegation will be introducing, as it has in past years, a resolution calling for such a ban.

The agenda before us is a full one. The way in which we address it — constructively or not — will set the tone for one of the major events on next year's multilateral calendar: the Fourth Review