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attention on the need to limit and reduce the levels of military forces and armaments, for the exchange of views among member states on multilateral disarmament issues and for encouraging the examination of disarmament-related questions in other international forums.

At the same time, it has been repeatedly recognized in resolutions of this Assembly that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament continues to be the most appropriate forum for the negotiation of arms-control agreements intended to have universal application. Canada deeply regrets that, except for the draft environmental-modification convention, no arms-control treaty has emerged from the CCD in recent years. Nevertheless, the CCD remains well suited to the negotiation of international arms-control agreements whenever fundamental political and other obstacles can be overcome. The value of the CCD would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of those nuclear-weapon states that have not yet participated in its work. The CCD has decided to undertake a comprehensive review of its procedures early in 1977. Canada supports efforts to improve the effectiveness of the CCD and will, in particular, be prepared to give sympathetic consideration to changes in the structure or procedures of the CCD that would make possible the participation of more than three of the nuclear-weapon states.

The CCD's utility as a negotiating forum has been again well demonstrated this year by the elaboration of a draft convention to prohibit the military or any other hostile use of environmental-modification techniques. We are well aware of the reservations some countries have about the draft convention, particularly about the scope of its prohibition. We do not consider the draft convention to be a faultless document, nor, given the other and more pressing priorities in the arms-control field, do we regard it as a major landmark. Canada is, nevertheless, prepared to join in recommending to governments that they sign the draft convention in its present form in the hope that it will inhibit whatever plans some states might otherwise make or contemplate for the hostile use of environmental-modification techniques. Its provision for periodic review is particularly important in dealing with techniques so little understood as those the convention seeks to regulate. We also support fully the provision in Article III of the draft convention for the fullest possible exchange of scientific and technological information in the use of environmental-modification techniques for peaceful purposes, which, we hope, will help to foster greater international co-operation in a field of vital importance to us all.

Canada sincerely hopes that the value of the CCD will be further demonstrated in the continuing consideration it is expected to give to a convention to prohibit the development, production and stock-

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