

Canada was not only an active participant at the conference which produced this Convention, but was also the first country to ratify it. To come into force the Convention requires ratification by 40 countries. The purpose of the resolution which has been tabled is to bring to the attention of the countries which have not yet ratified the Convention the desirability of doing so in the near future.

Some countries have expressed fears that upon coming into force, the Convention would destroy the international control system which has been laboriously developed over the last 50 years. The Canadian Government does not share these fears. On the contrary, we believe that to be effective international control must reflect the agreement of the largest possible number of countries.

We also believe that the Single Convention represents this kind of agreement -- and that its coming into force will represent a further advance in international control by covering narcotic substances and other matters not wholly dealt with under the existing nine multilateral treaties. The Convention will replace these treaties and thus will provide not only for codification but will also further the cause of international controls as regards narcotic drugs.

Another draft resolution which my Delegation has co-sponsored is contained in Document A/C3/L991. Revision 1. Its purpose is to ensure that the 15th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will receive the attention it deserves. My country attaches great importance to the Declaration and believes that December 10, 1948 will remain a milestone in the history of the United Nations and of mankind.