

Convention will be based upon rules whose meaning is already widely understood, a great many of the rules of the future Convention will be new and radical - even revolutionary. Even with the very best will in the world, differences will arise from time to time between States as to the interpretation and application of its provisions, despite all the efforts which are presently being made to ensure clarity and the development of adequate mechanisms concerning dispute avoidance. Such differences must, of course, first be the subject of negotiation, and it would be undesirable in the view of the Government of Canada to supplant this fundamental process in international relations. However, it is equally clear that from time to time disputes will arise in which States will find themselves in a position in which only the reference of a disputed question to an independent third party can provide a solution to the dispute. We believe that reference of such disputes concerning the interpretation and application of the Law of the Sea Convention to third party settlement can be of value both to parties to the dispute, and, in the long run, to all States in providing an important means of elucidation and interpretation of the text. It goes without saying that independent and impartial third party settlement procedures benefit the less powerful States in particular, since such processes ensure equality before the law.