

"straddle" the economic zones of neighbouring states or the 200-mile limit and adjacent areas beyond that limit. Without international co-operation, such stocks cannot be effectively managed and conserved. We will build on this provision through domestic action and through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements.

The Convention fills a void in international law with regard to the prevention of marine pollution. This is the first multilateral treaty laying down an obligation on all states to protect and preserve the marine environment as a peremptory norm of international law. It recognizes that the preservation of water quality in the oceans cannot be the sole responsibility of the coastal state nor of the flag state but must be assured by the international community as a whole. To address the threat of vessel source pollution, the Convention provides that flag and coastal states have joint and several responsibility to reduce, prevent and minimize pollution from vessels. It is a source of particular satisfaction to me that the Convention takes into account the particular problems posed by navigation in ice-covered areas. The Conference has recognized the right of a coastal state bordering such areas to adopt and enforce non-discriminatory laws to prevent and control vessel source pollution, steps Canada has already taken under its Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act.

The continental shelves of many of the world's nations are rich in hydrocarbon resources, the energy we will all continue to need in the foreseeable future. Again, the Convention has achieved a balance between broad and narrow continental shelf states. Coastal state sovereign rights over the resources of the continental margin is already part of customary international law. The Convention defines an outer limit for the "legal" continental shelf and requires coastal states to make payments through the International Seabed Authority on a percentage of the production from the resources of the shelf beyond 200 miles to the outer edge of the shelf. These funds will go to the developing countries most in need. We must recognize, however, that there will only be funds to dispense if these resources prove to be commercially exploitable.

A tenet of the Canadian position since these negotiations began 14 years ago has been to ensure that the Convention gives expression to and implements the concept that the resources of the area beyond national jurisdiction are "the common heritage of mankind". The Convention provides a mechanism for the management of these resources, without infringing state interests, through the International Seabed Authority, composed of an Assembly, representing all parties to the Convention, and a 36-member