

Conclusion

Given the magnitude and complexity of its mandate, the Conference has made substantial progress but, if it is not to founder, a further major effort will be required to overcome the differences which still exist on the few remaining contentious issues, particularly on the regime for the deep seabed. A failure of the Conference would be a severe setback to the development of international law and could result in the proliferation of conflicts over the use of the world's oceans. Canada remains firmly committed to the realization of a new constitution of the oceans and will continue to play an active part in efforts to achieve that objective.