

In November 1973 IMCO established a new sub-organ, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). The new Committee is responsible within IMCO for work relating to the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships. The MEPC is responsible for preparing a list of substances to be annexed to the Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil. The first session of the MEPC, March 1974, was devoted primarily to procedural and organizational matters.

The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter was adopted at an international conference held in London during 1972. The Convention will enter into force one month after the deposit of the fifteenth instrument of ratification which is expected to take place early in 1975. Canada is presently preparing legislation to implement the Convention prior to its coming into force.

The process of preventing marine pollution caused either by ships or by dumping is still unfinished. There will be further opportunities within IMCO to seek improvement in measures for preventing marine pollution.

Canadian activities to prevent forms of pollution that have global implications are based on the principles enunciated by the 1972 Stockholm Conference in the Declaration on the Human Environment, in particular principles 21 and 22. The primary forum for Canadian activities in the international field is the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which was established as a result of the Stockholm Conference. At the second session of the Governing Council of UNEP held in 1973 a decision was taken to carry out a study of weather modification and to consider the desirability of producing guidelines or a 'code of conduct' on international cooperation in this field; this study will be followed by the convening of legal and scientific groups at a later stage. The control of weather modification is a goal at the bilateral as well as the multi-lateral level. Bilateral discussions are at present underway with the United States on an agreement relating to weather modification experiments. Canada would like to see the eventual agreement include provision for prior notice of weather modification activities and reference to the principle of the duty to consult.