

need emphasizing. The dangerous and unacceptable alternatives to such peaceful settlement procedures are all too clear.

The problem of dispute settlement has received relatively little attention by the Conference to date. However, I believe it is of fundamental importance if we are to have a viable and lasting Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Government of Canada strongly supports the inclusion of a comprehensive system of compulsory dispute settlement in the Law of the Sea Convention. Both at the United Nations and at other international fora it has long been Canadian policy to press for the inclusion of provisions for the compulsory settlement of international disputes in international conventions. It is the belief of my Government, Mr. President, that any State adhering to an international legal instrument should be prepared to show its willingness to abide by the terms of that instrument by agreeing to its conduct in relation to that instrument being judged by an impartial system of compulsory third party dispute settlement.

If we are successful in reaching agreement on a comprehensive Law of the Sea Convention it will be one of the most important and complex legal instruments ever to be negotiated within an international conference. It should be borne in mind that, while some of the rules set out in the