

that states consider making declarations, when they sign or ratify the Convention, to accept arbitration decisions as binding vis-à-vis any state which makes a reciprocal declaration. This option was incorporated in the resolution endorsing the Convention.

(b) Canada/France Draft Registration Convention

At the 1972 session of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Canadian delegation tabled a Draft Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space providing for the establishment of an international system for registering all objects launched into outer space. In 1968 France had also tabled a draft convention but the emphasis in their draft had been on national registers rather than on an international register. The Canadian and French delegations were able to combine their separate drafts into a joint draft which was given detailed consideration by a working group of the whole. Although the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. were not enthusiastic about the idea of a compulsory registration system, they were not obstructive. Accordingly, although no agreement was reached on some details in the joint draft, most of the important principles were accepted. For example, although it was not possible to reach agreement on the type of detailed information to be provided to the United Nations Secretary-General, there was no objection to the principle of furnishing information on objects launched into outer space. At its 1972 session the General Assembly noted the progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee and agreed that at its 1973 session the Legal Sub-Committee should pursue, as a matter of priority, its work on the draft convention.

At the 1973 session of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Canadian