

Along similar lines, we support the appeal to all States which have not yet become parties to give urgent consideration to ratifying and acceding to the three international conventions to which I have referred. This appeal which is reflected in operative paragraph three of the Resolution A/SPC/32/L.4 which was adopted by consensus in this Committee yesterday has been made by this General Assembly in earlier resolutions and as I have indicated it has not gone unheeded. Canada is looking to those States which have not yet become parties to these conventions for cooperation at all levels: international, regional and bilateral.

We believe that draft resolution L.4 provides a good basis for future action by member States. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirms the condemnation of the General Assembly of acts of aerial hijacking. This condemnation extends to all acts of violence against passengers, crew and aircraft, regardless of motive. Acts of air piracy, like acts of sea piracy, slavery and genocide, regardless of motive or cause are abhorrent to the conscience of mankind.

Operative paragraph 2 calls upon all States to take all necessary steps to prevent the commission of offences. There is a clear need for improved security arrangements at airports, or by airlines, as well as a greater exchange of relevant information between States. Canada reaffirms its commitment to national and international measures to this end. Canada has actively supported the convening, under the auspices of ICAO, of regional aviation security seminars. These seminars help to enhance the effectiveness of States' security procedures and have the added advantage of promoting uniformity in various regions. Canada proposed at the 22nd ICAO Assembly last month that Resolution A-21-23 entitled "Technical Measures for Safeguarding International Civil Air Transport Against Unlawful Interference" be amended to give ICAO more flexibility to call regional aviation security seminars. This amendment was adopted and should now pave the way for increased regional consultations of a technical nature.

Canada is convinced that there is scope for further national and international action. I have mentioned two avenues which must be actively pursued, namely wider acceptance of the Tokyo, Hague and Montreal Conventions and the more frequent convening of regional aviation security seminars. My delegation also attaches importance to the need, reflected in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, for joint and separate action to ensure that passengers, crew and aircraft engaged in civil aviation are not used as a means of extorting advantage of any kind. Canada, together with other like-minded delegations, will, as a matter of the highest priority, seek to explore every possibility for effective action in this regard.

My delegation would have wished the inclusion of more specific language in operative paragraph 4 with respect to the work to be taken up by ICAO as a follow-on to this action by this Assembly. We believe that the language of this resolution does reflect the resolve of member States of the United Nations to undertake urgently further efforts in ICAO to ensure the security of air travel and to close the door on the hijacker in a decisive and effective way. Canada will be consulting actively with other delegations here and in ICAO on various follow-on measures, including the reinforcement of