

My delegation nevertheless considers it necessary that our Committee should debate the merits of suggested principles such as those contained in Draft Resolutions A/AC.105/L.2 and L.6 which were tabled in the Outer Space Committee. This is the only means by which members of the Outer Space Committee can learn the opinions of members of the United Nations not members of the Committee concerning the various principles which have been suggested. All proposals and the records of the First Committee debate should then be transmitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the request that they formulate such principles as seem appropriate to the Committee and keep the problem under review. In this way, as our scientific and technical knowledge grow, we can look forward to the gradual development of a set of principles which could guide the exploration and use of outer space.

At the same time, where the nature of the problem is known in sufficient detail, the Outer Space Committee could also draft treaties, conventions, or declarations as appropriate to record in more formal and precise terms obligations and rights which could form the basis of the law of outer space proper. We believe that this approach to the development of the law of outer space will ensure that the problem is kept under constant review and that we are able to make as much progress in the formulation of outer space law as technical and scientific knowledge permits.

Mr. Chairman, I think it will already be apparent from my remarks that the Canadian delegation believes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has got off to a good start. We approve the Committee's decision to proceed by