

Mr. President, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea ranks in importance with the San Francisco Founding Conference of the U.N. itself. It represents an extremely important element in the North-South dialogue. It has significant implications for peaceful East-West relations. It touches on the interests of every state, great or small, rich or poor, coastal or land-locked. The achievement of a universal agreement on a Law of the Sea Convention is fundamental to world peace and security.

Of course, international peace and security, as well as development, freedom, and life itself, will ultimately depend on whether we can successfully work toward arms control and disarmament. Security can be consistent with lower levels of armaments and expenditures. The coming Special Session on Disarmament must point the way to more concrete progress than in recent years if credibility is to be maintained. Deliberations on disarmament at this General Assembly can be of crucial importance in preparation. The remarkable consensus reached in 1978 needs reaffirmation and further direction. It is true that the international climate is less favourable today. At the same time, we cannot ignore the growing impatience of the world's peoples with the lack of progress towards verifiable arms limitation and disarmament agreements. Our efforts on their behalf should take into account the situation as it is in covering realistic proposals which have some substantive chance to effect change. The Canadian government recently reaffirmed the validity of the concept of the strategy of suffocation mentioned in the final document of the First Special Session on Disarmament. Embracing that strategy are Canada's priorities on preparations for the Second Special Session. They are: (a) to encourage the continuation of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks) process; (b) to promote the realization of a multilateral comprehensive test-ban treaty; (c) to assist in the preparation of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on their destruction; (d) to promote the evolution of an effective non-proliferation regime based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and (e) to participate in negotiations to limit and reduce conventional forces. Canada is committed to breaking the pattern of madness which spiralling rearmament represents, and these priorities will guide our endeavours to fulfil this commitment.

Mr. President, I have spoken about the far-reaching quests for peace, self-determination and development. These are the forces by which pervasive change can be channelled in positive directions. They are as new