

the needs of specific regions. The basic obligation set out in the guidelines is as follows:

“States have an obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. In exercising their sovereign right to exploit their natural resources, all States have the duty to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment.”

Acid rain (multilateral)

The Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by a least 30 per cent was adopted on July 8, 1985 by the Executive Body of the Convention at its third session, held in Helsinki, Finland. The Protocol was signed by 21 governments on July 9, 1985, including the Government of Canada. Canada ratified the Protocol on December 4, 1985. It also ratified the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-Term Financing of the Co-operative Program for Monitoring of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) on December 4, 1985.

The environment

Canada's international activities on environmental protection and improvement continued to reflect this country's concern with the global importance of environmental issues.

At the 1985 Bonn Economic Summit, leaders accepted the principle that environmental policy should be fully integrated into other policies and considered as a fundamental factor when economic decisions are taken. The Summit Final Communiqué contained major declarations in support of solving such pressing environmental problems as acid deposition and air pollution from motor vehicles and other significant sources.

A Canadian served as Chairman of the OECD Environment Committee in 1985, and the Minister of the Environment was chosen as one of the Vice Chairmen of the OECD Environment Ministers' Meeting in June of that year. The Ministers agreed that although significant progress had been achieved, much remained to be done in areas such as the dispersion of toxic substances, the accumulation and widespread effects of air pollution, and the management and protection of water, soil, forest and wildlife resources. They also recommended that an environmental section be added to the OECD Guidelines for Multilateral Enterprises. Later that year a Clarification on the Environment was added to the Guidelines.

The signature in July 1985 at Helsinki by 21 members of the ECE (including Canada) of a Protocol to the Long-Range Transport of Atmospheric Pollutants (LRTAP) Convention on the reduction of sulphur emissions by 30 per cent was of particular importance, since it represented the first broad, concrete multilateral action to combat the problem of acid rain. Canada supported ECE efforts to develop a new LRTAP protocol to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. It also signed the 1985 Stockholm Declaration on Air Pollution by Motor Vehicles and announced measures to strengthen Canadian auto emission standards and phase out the sale of leaded gasoline.

Canada maintained an active role in support of the UNEP and participated in the 13th study by the Royal Society of Canada on nuclear winter, which was made available to UNEP.

Canadian delegates also contributed to UNEP discussions on hazardous chemicals, management of hazardous wastes, sound water management, UNEP's Earthwatch Program, and measures to protect the ozone layer, including preparations for the negotiation of a Control Protocol to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Canada has operated the World Ozone Data Centre for the World Meteorological Organization for more than 25 years. In the area of carbon dioxide and climate control, Canada took part in the 1985 Villach Scientific Conference on the greenhouse effect caused by carbon dioxide.

A Canadian delegation, which included representatives of aboriginal peoples and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), participated in the fifth meeting (in Buenos Aires) of partners to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Convention accepted the Canadian offer to hold the 1987 CITES conference in Ottawa.

Law of the sea

The Law of the Sea (LOS) Convention sets out a comprehensive regime for the regulation of the world's oceans. When the Convention closed for signatures on December 9, 1984, it had 159 signatories (including Canada), which is an unprecedented response to any international accord. The Convention will enter into force twelve months after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession. As of March 31, 1986, 26 states had ratified the LOS Convention.

As a state with one of the longest coastlines in the world and with important ocean interests, Canada regards the LOS Convention as a unique opportunity to make a major contribution to world peace and security by reducing the potential for conflict in the competing uses of the oceans. While some aspects of the Convention codify existing customary international law, other aspects represent new law. The provisions of the Convention are having a significant impact on Canadian domestic legislation, although Canada has not yet decided whether or not to ratify it. Failure of the Convention could, in Canada's view, risk a return to the uncertainties that existed before the Convention was negotiated.

During the year, Canada was an active participant in the work of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom), established to set up the institutional system envisaged in the Convention. The PrepCom met in Geneva in August 1985 and in Kingston, Jamaica, in March 1986, to continue its efforts to develop suitable mechanisms for implementation of the regime outlined in the Convention for the exploitation of deep seabed resources.

As a major land-based mineral producer and potential seabed mining nation, Canada has a fundamental interest in the complex issues being addressed by the PrepCom. Many industrialized countries (including Canada) have expressed concern about aspects of the deep seabed mining regime under the LOS Convention and consider it essential that the PrepCom's efforts result in a regime that encourages universal participation in the Convention. The outcome of the work of the PrepCom will, therefore, be an important factor for these states in determining whether or not to ratify, or accede to, the LOS Convention.

Pursuant to Resolution II of the final session of the Convention, the PrepCom is also engaged in efforts to establish