

The Conference will recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that an eighth session be convened in Geneva in March 1979 for a period of six weeks. A decision on further sessions will be deferred until the Eighth Session. A number of delegations expressed impatience at the seemingly interminable negotiating process. And while there was disagreement as to whether a rigid target date should be set for adoption of a draft treaty, there was general agreement that general objectives as to the future work programme are highly desirable. There was a strongly held feeling that every effort should be made to conclude the negotiating process during 1979 and to revise the ICNT with a view to the adoption of a draft treaty in 1980.

Against the background of the tremendous progress already achieved over the past 4 years and in light of the critical importance to Canada of the issues still outstanding, notably, a production ceiling for deep seabed mining and a formula for defining the seaward edge of the continental margin, the Canadian Government remains firmly committed to a positive outcome of the negotiations which will ensure full protection for Canadian mining and marine interests, a balanced legal order of the oceans and a more stable and peaceful world.

Legal Operations Division.

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