

Mr. Chairman,

Canada joined in the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986 because we saw that document as a reaffirmation of the responsibility of national governments, and the international community as a whole, to work for the realization of all principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The World Conference on Human Rights firmly established that civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights are integral, indivisible and inalienable elements of fundamental human rights. There is now a strong intergovernmental consensus behind this approach, where previously we faced seemingly irreconcilable differences.

It is in the light of this spirit of consensus that my delegation has studied the reports of the Commission's Working Group on the Right to Development.

The Working Group outlined what it sees as a series of obstacles to the realization of the right to development: the lack of an integrated approach to development; an unfair trading environment; the debt problem; lack of participation of women and other vulnerable groups; lack of a strong civil society; violent conflict and use of force; and insufficient coordination within the UN system. Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to offer my delegation's views on some of these points.

For too long, development strategies were narrowly focussed on economic growth. Lack of attention to the social aspects of development resulted in marginalizing large segments of many societies in the development process. But new thinking has evolved in the past few years. Solid building blocks for a new vision of development are emerging from a series of important world conferences: Rio in 1992, Vienna in 1993, Cairo in 1994, and Copenhagen and Beijing in 1995. The vision that is emerging is a people-centred one, which sees development as improving human well-being through the eradication of hunger, disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and through the productive participation of all elements of society.

The Agenda for Development provides an opportunity to establish a fresh framework for the UN's role in international cooperation for economic and social development. Canada believes that the UN has a role to play in fostering the integration of social and economic considerations, just as it has in underscoring the relationship between development, peace, democracy, and human rights. We encourage the Working Group to follow closely the progress on the Agenda for Development, bearing in mind that the question of development must include a human rights perspective.

We agree with the Working Group's conclusion that a supportive international environment is required for the implementation of the right to development. Canada firmly believes in an open international trading system, based on a

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