

The accent is now on implementation. I hope, Foreign Minister Choudhury, that you will make a point of emphasizing the importance of implementing the reforms we all agreed on, when you hand over the Presidency to your successor next month.

In the hope of giving further, and much needed, impetus to the reform effort, Canada has submitted to the U.N. and its Specialized Agencies a complex and detailed set of administrative budgetary proposals. Together, these proposals represent a model administrative system which, if adopted, would enable U.N. agencies to perform both more efficiently and more effectively. A more rational determination of priorities and greater budgetary transparency would permit improved control over programme implementation and better value-for-money. We hope that detailed discussions of these proposals with U.N. and member country officials this autumn will lead to the formulation of implementation plans tailored to specific agencies.

But there is a level of analysis few of us have considered yet, particularly in the sober halls of the United Nations building itself. Perhaps most of us are too hesitant to step into the role of futurologist. But change is so rapid in this half of the 20th century that the future will be here sooner than we can imagine. Who is more qualified than a non-governmental body devoted to the principles of the United Nations to speculate on, and to plan for, the next generation of multilateral organizations?

The Canadian philosopher, Marshall McLuhan, sought to illustrate the interdependence of people and the apparent shrinking of distances in our modern technological world, by referring to the global village. Since our population passed the five billion mark this summer, it may be more appropriate to refer to the global city, but the point remains the same. More and more we are living in each others back yard, breathing each others air and sharing the same diminishing natural resources. As both a Minister and a Member of Parliament, I am constantly aware that it is becoming difficult to adopt any measure of social or economic policy within the confines of one's own national frontier, which does not affect in some way the interests of one or more other countries.

There is no longer any question of whether or not there will be global governance. The question is how it will come into being. The United Nations was born from the cataclysm of global warfare, and was designed to serve an international system based on sovereign nation states. But our world is changing rapidly, and the concept of the nation state may no longer be sufficient to channel the energies and satisfy the aspirations of our five billion people.