

This renewed dialogue among our countries goes beyond a merely economic framework. That is why the economic resolution is closely related to the draft Declaration of Chaillot, to which I urge you to subscribe. This declaration on democracy and development combines two underlying themes that encompass both the political and economic development of our states. At a time when hard-line confrontation between East and West is on the wane -- hopefully for good -- we see that the new relationship between the governed and those who govern is being defined by the desire for freedom and the right to choose, in a variety of forms and in accordance with the spirit of each individual people. This democratization is a demanding art, a learning process that is not without a degree of trial and error. A long-term process rather than a static situation, it requires increased efforts as well as greater human and material resources.

It is no accident that development and democratization go hand in hand in this draft declaration. Although good government is essential to ensure the fair distribution of a nation's resources and to mobilize the people in pursuit of the common good, no government can impose the rigours of market law and political and economic reforms indefinitely -- unless these efforts ultimately offer a genuine promise of growth and development as well as equitable distribution of the revenue generated by such growth.

The current situation of the U.S.S.R. is glaring proof of these new realities. We cannot ignore this experience, since it is central to the planet's stability. It is not a matter of diverting aid flows at the expense of the countries of the south or of culpable negligence toward the Third World. It is a matter of managing the transition toward a new framework of international relations. La Francophonie must lend its support and make its voice heard on issues of current concern. It is a matter of relevance. I urge all of you to meet this fundamental challenge.

Thank you.