

have a direct link with the citizens of your countries. As the United Nations Charter declares:

"We, the peoples of the United Nations ..."

This is more than a semantic subtlety. It means that the United Nations must find ways to represent and be responsive to all the people of the world. Not just member states, not just governments, not just diplomats and bureaucrats, but all the people. And this means looking beyond New York to other centres where opinions are expressed, where ideas are generated.

My friends, walk the streets of Montreal and you will find a truly cosmopolitan city -- a city that rings with the sounds of people discussing the issues that are important to people around the world. This is an important natural resource that goes beyond bricks and mortar. A World Institute, most of all, needs ideas and opinions for inspiration.

You will find that inspiration here in Montreal. Our governments have supported the creation of "la Société du Centre de Conférence International" here in Montreal, to provide the structures and organizations that will support you in your work. But it is the people of Montreal, of Quebec, of Canada, who will provide you with the energy and the spirit to serve the United Nations and the people of the world.

Good luck with your deliberations, and we will be anxiously awaiting your decisions on the future plans for your organization.