

developing countries to identify areas of common interest which could be pursued in the next round.

Mr. President,

Economic development is critical, but its benefits will only be fully realized and enjoyed if the member states of the UN cooperate together in a concerted plan to tackle the preeminent social and human rights issues of our day.

Illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic and other drugs is a major social challenge on every continent.

I am pleased that the UN has set out a plan of action in this vital field. Last year, Canada joined others in co-sponsoring a resolution which set in motion the drafting of a new convention to combat the illicit drug trade. It constitutes a key element in current international efforts to deal with this social problem. The convention must aim at strengthening enforcement measures against illicit drug trafficking.

We welcome the Secretary-General's proposal for the convening of a drug conference in 1987 at the ministerial level. We commend the link it makes between initiatives needed to cut down on the supply of illicit drugs and the steps required to reduce demand. We will be working actively with other interested countries to develop a resolution to carry this idea further forward at this session.

Forty years ago, the Charter made the rights and freedoms of all persons a matter of legitimate concern to the whole international community. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights itself is nearly four decades old. Yet our work has only just begun. As the Secretary-General notes in his current report: "Massive violations of human rights continue to take place, often of tragic proportions."

We must, therefore, expand the frontiers of U.N. activities in the human rights field. This will entail completing the work on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that the new Convention Against Torture is properly implemented, extending the Commission's program of Advisory Services, encouraging other countries to offer technical assistance in the human rights field, assisting the Working Group on the Disappeared. Moreover, the U.N. must continue to focus attention on the fate of prisoners of conscience, ensure that the disabled are not deprived of their basic rights, protect the special interests of indigenous populations around the world, and take steps to protect the rights of those who themselves promote human rights.