

meeting of this kind should make clear the international community holds the countries of exodus responsible for the welfare of all their citizens, whatever their racial origin or their economic circumstances. It should not hesitate to make a clear humanitarian inspired call upon those countries to make whatever adjustments are necessary to ease the situation which is engendering so much deprivation and suffering.

We are aware of the serious economic situation which exists in the countries of exodus. Apart from the broader economic problems, there exists a very serious food shortage which has been compounded by recent severe flooding. To the extent that the refugee outflow is encouraged by a poor economic situation, the institution of multilateral and bilateral assistance measures may help somewhat to reduce the flow of refugees.

For purely humanitarian reasons, the international community might perhaps wish to respond. It has been the case for Canada, which has provided substantial assistance to one of the South-east Asian countries of exodus. Nonetheless, our disposition in this regard would doubtless be strengthened if the countries of exodus showed a greater attachment to the fundamental rights and needs of all their citizens.

Mr. Chairman, given the magnitude of the problem and the complexity of the necessary solution, it is doubtful that two days are sufficient to our task. For this reason, my delegation believes that, at this stage, our first priority must be to reach consensus on the necessity for broad participation in an international plan of action such as the High Commissioner has outlined. We must support all the measures proposed by the High Commissioner but first of all and above all those which address themselves to the immediate needs of the