

We must improve coordination of aid both among multilateral agencies and bilateral donors. African nations must give greater priority to ensuring the delivery of aid and to mobilize their own resources in the long term.

Amidst the immediate despair, Canada finds grounds for hope. Our purpose is to strengthen and build on this hope through determined effort.

Canada is encouraged, first and foremost, by the determination and will of the international community to mobilize to overcome the African famine. In this respect, Canada strongly commends the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General. By its universal character, its moral leadership and the variety of its organizational activities, the United Nations has a pre-eminent role to play in orchestrating an international response. It is essential that this humanitarian effort should transcend the diversity of political, economic and social systems. Through his imaginative and determined measures the Secretary-General has put the United Nations at the forefront of efforts to save lives in Africa. He has put in place a better coordination of the various parts of the United Nations system. He has laid the groundwork for better assessment, planning and organization of relief aid and he has worked tirelessly to alert the international community to the needs of Africa. His work is a living testimony to the dynamism of the United Nations in this, its 40th anniversary.

We congratulate the new U.N. Office for Emergency Operations under the able leadership of Mr. Bradford Morse on the speed and determination with which it has established its presence as the key international coordinator. We believe that its assessment document and this conference are valuable weapons in our battle against the crisis. They are providing at last a clearer indication of what has been done and what still needs to be done. Canada intends to continue to work closely with this office to further improve the coordination of aid. We have provided grants to the World Food Programme and United Nations Development Programme in support of the coordination of relief efforts in the field. We have been and remain a firm believer that coordination is the best way of maximizing the effectiveness of aid.