

FORGETTING THE MOST URGENT TASK OF ALL, THE FIGHT AGAINST
DESERTIFICATION, EROSION MUST BE STOPPED, SOIL MUST BE REVITALIZED,
REFORESTATION MUST TAKE PLACE.

BUT THE PEASANT HIMSELF, AND HERSELF, MUST BE THE PRIME MOVER IN THIS
STRATEGY. WE MUST RELY ON THE HUMAN POTENTIAL OF AFRICA, AS WELL AS ON
THE ABILITIES AND THE COMMITMENT OF CANADIANS WHO ARE WORKING TOWARDS
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTINENT. AND THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS HAS BECOME OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN THIS PROCESS.

IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT REAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT A METAMORPHOSIS BUT AN
EVOLUTION - A SLOW EVOLUTION, I WILL ADD, THAT MUST DEPEND FIRST AND
FOREMOST ON HUMAN RESOURCES.

AND THIS, WE NEED THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN.

THAT IS WHAT I ASK OF YOU.

THAT IS WHAT I HOPE FOR AFRICA.

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE AND ANTICIPATION, THEREFORE, THAT I WELCOME
YOU HERE TO THE NATIONAL FORUM AFRICA. I WISH YOU A USEFUL MEETING, AND
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS OF YOUR DELIBERATIONS.