

concept is reflected in the draft.

We are increasingly aware that human life is affected by environmental processes and influences which are in turn affected by human activities. This concept is reflected in the draft.

We are equally aware that human beings require and utilize the resources of the biosphere for their physical, mental, social and economic development. This concept is reflected in the draft.

We are conscious that economic and social development and the quality of the environment are interdependent. This concept is reflected in the draft.

We accept that the limited resources of the biosphere including in particular land, air and water, require rational utilization. This concept is reflected in the draft.

We recognize that there is cause for concern that irrational utilization of these resources is posing an accelerating threat to the environment. This concept is reflected in the draft.

Mr. Chairman, it is the firm position of the Canadian Government and people that environmental problems are the concern of all human beings and all peoples irrespective of their social or political systems, geographic situation or state of economic development. This concept is reflected in the draft.

It is the equally firm position of the Canadian Government and the Canadian people that all human beings and all peoples have equal rights to an environment adequate to their needs. This fundamental principle is also reflected in the draft.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken of the importance of this draft declaration as an instrument laying down the foundation for the future development of international law. I should like to take advantage of this unusual opportunity presented to us by this conference, which we regard as of historic importance, to make the following statement of interpretation. It is not, I should like to stress, a statement of reservations. On the contrary. It is an affirmation.

The Canadian Government considers that Principle 21 (formerly 18) reflects customary international law in affirming the principle that states have, in accordance with the charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

The Canadian Government considers that the secondary consequential Principle 22 (formerly 19) reflects an existing duty