

## 5. Taking Measures to Prevent Further Deterioration in the Human Environment

At its twenty-third session, the General Assembly decided to convene in 1972 a Conference on the Human Environment. By this decision the United Nations turned its attention to a new area of concern to mankind—the problems of human environment which affect man's physical, mental and social well-being as well as the development of the world in which he lives. A Preparatory Committee for the Conference has been established and Canada is a member.

International co-operation is essential in seeking solutions to these problems, and Canada intends actively to assist in exploring the possibilities for co-operative action in tackling the problems of human environment, especially of those aspects held in common. By making full use of the experience which we have gained in the domestic and bilateral field, we can make a substantial contribution towards an international pooling of knowledge on the most practical methods of dealing with pollution problems. We also stand to benefit from the experience of others.

Both in preparation for and participation in the 1972 Conference, it is essential for Canada to engage the efforts and interests of all levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal, as well as industry, agriculture, the universities and all other elements of the community concerned with the problems of our environment.

Canada should seek to have the Conference concentrate on components of the basic problems, as identified and elaborated by the Preparatory Committee, which are suited to action and management by public authorities, national and international. There must be an improved understanding of the need for sharing of responsibility by the international community and the Conference might elaborate guidelines which would set out the rights of states to a sound environment and the obligations which states have to ensure that they do not contribute to the destruction of that environment.

The Conference could make a significant contribution if it were to give a clear and concise statement on the need for and action required by public authorities at the local, national, regional and international levels to deal with the problems of defining, planning, managing and controlling the human environment. At some stage, appropriate international machinery could be established designed to develop common co-operative plans of action which could ultimately involve regulatory and adjudicatory