

Third UNCED PrepCom

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CANADIAN INTERVENTION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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HEAD OF DELEGATION

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Canadian delegation, I'd like to commend the Secretariat first for recognizing the significant contribution in human settlements to the concept of sustainable development and second, for including human settlements as a separate agenda item for this meeting. Canada would also like to commend the UNCHS (Habitat) as the lead UN agency responsible for human settlements issues, as well as the World Bank, the WHO, UNDP, UNEP and the OECD for their excellence in furthering the progress of work relating to the complex field of human settlements and sustainable development and specifically to the targeting of initiatives related to sustainable cities.

By providing a focus for dealing with many of the symptoms of the global environment and development crisis such as climate change, deforestation, soil loss, and the pollution of oceans and freshwater, human settlements play an essential role in the development and implementation of environmental policies and programs as they affect the human condition. Communities also provide a unique forum which can address both sectoral and cross-sectoral issues and have the institutional capacity to integrate the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable