

In 1984, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an international conference on Disarmament and Development in order to conduct "a comprehensive discussion of the subject at a high political level."

Canada will strongly support the international conference, which will be held in Paris in 1986. The Government believes it is important to highlight the costs of a continuing arms race and compare it to the potential benefits that might be derived from a degree of disarmament. It is clear that if even a fraction of the arms expenditures of the superpowers, or the other militarily important powers, were to be diverted to meeting the needs of development, great prospects for development could open up. If the expenditures on arms by the developing countries themselves could be reduced, an additional substantial amount of resources, financial and human, could be released for development purposes.

The future of the U.N. and of progress toward global security through disarmament and development lies not just in the hands of government. It lies also in the determination of growing numbers of individuals participating in the development of a global community at the grassroots level. The role of people and governments everywhere is to ensure that the world moves steadily towards a new definition of security, based on the common ground that we all share as inhabitants of this small and fragile planet.