

Mr. President, Canada remains fully committed to the pursuit of a negotiated settlement in accordance with the principles of Resolution 435. However, it has become apparent that progress towards a settlement will only be made if the transitional process is fair and the result satisfactory to, and respected by, all Namibians. Accordingly, Canada, with our colleagues in the Five, will be examining possibilities for strengthening the existing plan in order to give greater confidence to all parties in the future of an independent Namibia.

Active consultations among the Western Five are continuing to determine how a negotiated settlement might best be pursued. The complexity of the situation calls for carefully considered judgments on the part of every participant. The next steps in the effort could affect the course of events in Southern Africa for some time to come.

Canada believes that the way must be left open for the pursuit of an internationally acceptable settlement. It is with that in mind that we contemplate with deepest concern the call for sanctions before this Council. Such a course, we believe, would probably put an end to United Nations' efforts and could indefinitely delay progress towards Namibian independence.

The frustrations of the international community over the failure to bring the United Nations' effort to a successful conclusion are fully shared by Canada and our colleagues in the Western Five. At this time, when the chances of early progress seem low, the negotiation process must be intensified and every effort made to build on the substantial body of work which has gone into the issue so far. It is essential to retain support for a negotiated solution and to avoid unnecessarily putting obstacles in that path. My Government urges the Security Council to reiterate that support and reaffirms its own commitment to the ultimate goal of self-determination for the Namibian people.

Thank you, Mr. President.