

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates,

It was a privilege for me as Canada's Minister of State for Urban Affairs to have served as President of the Habitat Conference in Vancouver. I am pleased to be here to participate in the work of this committee. Before I begin the substance of my remarks, however, I would like to pay tribute to Senor Enrique Penalosa and his colleagues, who have been the major support and guiding spirits of Habitat. Their devotion to the improvement of the human condition is well known by those in this chamber. Senor Penalosa's return to his own country marks the end of a distinct and distinguished period in the social development of our world community.

I should also like to express my personal regrets to the family and friends of Duccio Turin who died tragically in an auto accident last July. On behalf of the Canadian Government and the people of Canada I extend our profound sympathy.

Distinguished delegates, before you now rest the resolutions passed by the Habitat-UN Conference on Human Settlements - important resolutions - that commit to paper principles dealing with human settlements. The fact that these resolutions were worked out in my country - Canada - is a source of pride to me and to all Canadians. As you know, we are a country in change. We are a young country in terms of rapid urban growth and are currently struggling to digest the social and economic upheaval that is partner and mate to urbanization.

At the same time we are an ancient land, drawing our roots from native civilizations that settled and prospered in the dim memory of time. Because of the disparity and diversity of races and cultures within the vastness of Canada, the inaccessibility of northern reaches and the adversity of climate, we are often brothers with the third world nations in terms of human settlements.

Habitat has been a stimulating experience for Canadians - stimulating because many of the problems discussed affect us in the broadest sense.

We are, after all, not only producers of technology affecting human settlements but also both beneficiary and victim. Where once the word ecology was known only by academics and where, in times past, the social implications of our common tenancy of this world were of little concern to the vast majority