

decisions. The Vision Paper includes a very broad range of activities, and there is not, as yet, any clearcut definition of which will be the top priorities in the years to come, which will be more secondary activities, and which areas may have to be dropped or severely scaled back. The Secretary General has alluded to some areas where major savings could be achieved, including national offices, which account for 10 per cent of the total OAS budget. Canada agrees with this assessment, and urges other member states to put aside their individual interests and work with the Secretary General in this and other reform areas.

The process of renewal which the Secretary General has launched is aimed at making the OAS a more efficient and responsive organization. However, it cannot, and will not, be accomplished without the active participation and support of the membership. The process will, of necessity, entail some difficult choices and perhaps even sacrifices. We have an important window of opportunity to breathe new life and vigour into the Organization, under the creative and energetic leadership of Secretary General Gaviria. Let us not allow this opportunity to elude us under the combined forces of ambivalence and lack of political will.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.