

invaluable report. It advocated strongly that Canada continue to play an active North-South role, based on the principles of mutual benefit and humanitarianism, and made a series of constructive recommendations relating to energy, finance, trade, food and development assistance. Our government has been pleased with the broad support the report has received and with the increased public awareness fostered by the work of the Task Force.

Parallel to the work of the Parliamentary Task Force, and drawing on it, the Canadian government also conducted a review of North-South policy. We have affirmed a number of fundamental issues, including a recognition of interdependence, the need for harmonization of external and domestic policies which have an impact on developing countries, the need to employ a variety of instruments to meet the needs of developing countries, and greater integration of the South in the international economic system.

Call to action

As nations we must acknowledge that not only our economic concerns, but many of our political, social and economic problems are fundamentally international in character. In a world of constant change, the problem of reconciling the fact of interdependence with the imperative of self-determination is one of the biggest challenges facing policy-makers today. But our recognition of the complexities of interdependence, and of its consequences in all aspects of national life, must not be a cause for despair, but rather a call to action. We must take up the challenge of adapting and developing international institutions, and our national perspectives, to these new realities and to the reality of change itself.

Institutions themselves, no matter how they are strengthened, are not enough. What is essential is the determination — on the part of all countries — to make these instruments effective. Governments, whatever their particular national perspective, must summon the resolve necessary to confront the pressing international problems of today. To do this requires a shared confidence that, only through international co-operation, can we obtain security, stability and justice in the world.

Canadians have that confidence. We shall dedicate our efforts, not only here in the United Nations, but wherever these problems are addressed, to working to overcome these problems of international scope which touch the lives of us all.

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