

Let us agree during this Assembly to hold the proposed Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992. Let us move forward towards a Climate Change Convention where Canada has played a lead role in the development of a UN draft. And let us start a realistic dialogue between the developed and developing world on this environmental scourge which threatens all States, rich and poor.

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I detect today a new and welcome wind of change in the stale and unproductive state of relations between North and South which marked the 1970s and the first part of this decade. There is a growing recognition that grand, vague visions must give way to pragmatic dialogue, and that attributing blame does little to solve problems.

In fact, without fanfare and grand initiative, a new process of dialogue has already begun between the developed and developing world.

- In the Cairns Group, diverse countries such as Canada and Thailand, Australia and Argentina have joined together on agricultural issues.
- In international financial institutions, the debt crisis is being approached with a new spirit of realism and a sense of shared risk. Economic prescriptions are now being married with political and social considerations. This sensitivity is required if fledgling democracies and fragile societies are not to collapse over the wrenching effect of debt repayments.
- In the Commonwealth, a multi-racial and global membership has allowed for increasing pressure against apartheid.
- In La Francophonie, new programs to preserve the French heritage and promote distance-learning are emerging, and human rights are now on the agenda for the first time.
- And within the Non-Aligned Movement, there is a refreshing determination to put ideology aside and seek practical co-operation with the developed world.