

We consider that there is a fundamental need for an environment that permits the fullest enjoyment of the basic human rights reflected in the universal Declaration of Human Rights, including, in particular, the right to life itself. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We recognize that life on the planet Earth is dependent on the land, the earth, the water and the sun and upon other forms of life on earth. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We are aware that human life is also dependent upon the maintenance of the ecological balance of the biosphere. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We are increasingly aware that human life is affected by environmental processes and influences, which are in turn affected by human activities. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We are equally aware that human beings require and utilize the resources of the biosphere for their physical, mental, social and economic development. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We are conscious that economic and social development and the quality of the environment are interdependent. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We accept that the limited resources of the biosphere, including, in particular, land, air and water, require rational utilization. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

We recognize that there is cause for concern that irrational utilization of these resources is posing an accelerating threat to the environment. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

It is the firm position of the Canadian Government and people that environmental problems are the concern of all human beings and all peoples irrespective of their social or political systems, geographic situation or state of economic development. *This* conception is reflected in the Draft.

It is the further position of the Canadian Government and the Canadian people that all human beings and all peoples have equal rights to an environment adequate to their needs. This fundamental principle is also reflected in the Draft.

I have spoken of the importance of this Draft Declaration as an instrument laying down the foundation for the future development of international law. I should like to take advantage of the unusual opportunity presented to us by this Conference, which we regard as of historic importance, to make the following statement of interpretation. It is not, I should like to stress, a statement of reservations. On the contrary -- it is an affirmation.