

concentrate on its comparative advantages. Canada believes that this means providing a forum for discussion of shared development issues and concerns, facilitating exchanges between member states, and emphasizing multinational projects in a limited number of priority areas. At this year's Special General Assembly in Mexico, representatives of all our countries made definite strides in streamlining the activities of the proposed new Council. We must now work collectively to ensure that the momentum we have created on this issue is maintained, in order to ensure a timely and effective transition to the new system.

Another example of an OAS organization which is looking at reform is CICAD, the Drug Abuse Control Commission, the members of which are also looking at means of streamlining operations and re-evaluating priorities with a view to focussing on CICAD's comparative advantage in addressing the drug problem in the hemisphere. Together with Mexico and the CICAD Secretariat, Canada has been an active member of the drafting group tasked with: first, assessing both the scope of the drug problem in the region, including the aspects of supply and demand reduction and the effectiveness of existing strategies; and second, developing a draft policy document on priorities and administrative reform. This paper was considered by CICAD members last week in Washington.

One of the bodies most in need of reform, in Canada's view, and on which we have had limited success thus far, is the Inter-American Defence Board [IADB], to which I alluded earlier. Canada was among the countries that could have supported radical change to the IADB at this General Assembly. Unfortunately, this did not prove possible. Canada believes it is imperative that decisive action on this question — including issues of mandate and linkage — be taken by the OAS in the coming year.

Canada believes that there are other potentially useful areas of reform that the new Secretary General could consider. Among these are: reform of the staffing system to make it more transparent and equitable; greater delegation of authority to the senior managers of the Organization; stricter budgetary accountability; review of the audit function to turn it from a mere accounting exercise into more of a program audit; and a full review of the role and utility of the national offices (as many of you know, Canada has thus far declined to have a national office, since we are not convinced that they have a meaningful role which justifies their expense).

I would like to say a brief word about partnerships. As I mentioned earlier, in the continuing context of scarce resources, both in our domestic economies and in our international organizations, we simply cannot afford duplication of effort. Rather, we must be seeking to establish co-operative links with other organizations active in the hemisphere and in similar