

Mr. President, in addressing this Assembly for the first time, I am conscious that you have given long and distinguished service to the United Nations. My delegation is confident that your knowledge and wisdom will contribute to the success of our deliberations and pledges its full cooperation to you in carrying out your duties.

May I also welcome the newest member of the United Nations - the Seychelles. Canada looks forward to establishing friendly relations with the people and government of this new Commonwealth country.

I take this opportunity to express to the delegation of China the condolences of the government and people of Canada on the death of Chairman Mao Tse Tung. The world has lost a great man.

This is a time of difficult adjustment for the United Nations.

Our membership, with some notable exceptions, is virtually complete, yet there are pressures to define more strictly the obligations of membership.

Efforts to adapt the procedures and structure of the UN to accommodate new policy priorities introduce new tensions in some traditional bodies and activities.

Agreement on standards and principles of human rights is not matched by an equal determination to implement these standards without discrimination.

The Security Council meets more frequently than before, but there is no comparable increase in the number of agreed resolutions.

Acts of piracy and terror, both within and between states, undermine the principles of international law and behaviour on which the UN Charter is based.

The ideal of greater economic and social equality between nations is still far from translation into practice.

And finally, the choice between anarchy or order on the oceans stands out before us in unmistakable clarity.