

as a basis for global action, as do the program areas identified in document PC/42/ADD.7, but we are concerned about the lack of discussion about how these action plans are to be implemented. Mr. Chairman, our collective experience in developing the Mar del Plata Action Plan, and the review of the Plan recently undertaken by the relevant U.N. agencies, have clearly identified for us what needs to be done. It is now time to identify mechanisms which will ensure that the action plans are implemented.

Accordingly, we wish to ensure that the Dublin conference and UNCED identify appropriate mechanisms for implementing, co-ordinating and funding water programs. At the moment, no organization exists which is responsible for international co-operation in the broad field of water management. Canada feels that a fundamental need exists to improve co-ordination among the players involved in managing freshwater resources, and to catalyze action on strategic issues of concern. Examples include the need for development of a regime for managing water resources among countries, upgrading of basic water resource assessment capabilities in many countries, and co-ordination of research aimed at improving our understanding of the global hydrological cycle and its relationship to the global climate cycle. Effective co-ordination facilitates co-operation, minimizes duplication, promotes a rational allocation of human and capital resources, and ensures that these are targeted where the needs are greatest. Mr. Chairman, we are not proposing that existing functions be usurped, but that they be better co-ordinated and made more effective.

We feel that the development of such arrangements, operating at the global, regional, national and local levels, is essential to the success of the UNCED process for freshwater. This is a lesson we have all learned in our efforts since 1977 to implement the Mar del Plata Action Plan, which was hampered by the lack of mechanisms for co-ordinating and implementing water management strategies and actions. We therefore wish to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Prepcom III specifically request that the Dublin conference address this matter directly by identifying mechanisms for improving the co-ordination and implementation of a revised Mar del Plata Action Plan, for endorsement at UNCED. We also suggest that any institutional implications emerging from the Dublin conference be considered by Working Group III and integrated into its recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly refer to two examples which I believe illustrate the importance of developing effective mechanisms for co-operation on water resource management, and which clearly indicate that there are institutional and legal implications involved. The first example is the need for improving the management of internationally-shared water resources, a need which is recognized in paragraph 35 of document PC/42/ADD.7. There are 214 river basins in the world that are shared by two or more countries. Of these, over 60 major international river basins have