

most urban areas on our planet, the quality of the environment does not contribute as much as it could, and should, to man's cultural and social development.

We have, therefore, two responsibilities, the one quantitative and technical and the other qualitative and human. They cannot be separated and are mutually complementary; they constitute in fact a single challenge to be faced. Canada, in common with most other nations, is fully aware of the magnitude, the urgency and the complexity of what needs to be accomplished in planning and in management....

On its own part, conscious of its need to find solutions for human settlement problems on its own territory, Canada, in June 1971, established a Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. This department has the authority to undertake research in the field of urban affairs, to elaborate and implement policies of urban development and to co-ordinate the actions of the main participants in the urban scene. In addition, each of the ten provinces has a department of municipal affairs and has created a variety of planning bodies, and each of our principal cities has its urban planning service.

With respect to the growth and distribution of the world's population, Canada recognizes the necessity of further studies in this field and invites all countries to intensify their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Population, scheduled for 1974. Canada considers it a duty to participate actively in this effort.

Canada recognizes that research on problems of water supply, sewage treatment and waste disposal has high priority in tropical and semi-tropical areas, but asks this conference to recognize also the importance of such questions and of comparable research in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

Canada is also prepared to support the United Nations in its search for a global system of detection and anticipation of natural disasters. Although Canada recognizes the difficulties of such a task, especially as regards the exchange of information which may have strategic implications, it is prepared to participate in such studies as it has done all along.

Among the proposals for international action, Recommendation 137, entitled "International Program for Environmental Improvement Areas", in our view deserves special attention. This proposal to institute an international program whereby designated zones would be the object of a concentrated and sustained effort to improve their environment offers a rare opportunity to innovate, to try new formulas for planning and development and to test their effectiveness.

By adopting this proposal, the Stockholm Conference would set in motion a planning process, not only among nations interested in establishing such areas in their own territory but also in the United Nations Secretariat itself. Groups of experts might be brought together for consultation on conception and management. Their studies, as well as contacts made by the Secretariat with nations willing to participate in the program, would make it