

international treaties, mechanisms and procedures which should eventually cover all flagrant violations of human rights. No government can claim any longer that human rights abuses are solely within their domestic jurisdiction. The UN's work in human rights goes hand-in-hand with its efforts in the coordination of humanitarian assistance to refugees and in the case of natural or man-made disasters. We agree with the Secretary-General that the "individual human being" is "the ultimate raison d'etre for all our activities".

- Third, the UN system remains in the vanguard of the progressive development of international law. Pioneering legal regimes have been established in crucial fields - such as Law of the Sea, Outer Space, Civil Aviation, Telecommunications, and Trade. If the system, however, is going to keep pace with new developments and technologies, legal considerations will have to take precedence over political objectives.

- And fourth, the UN system is also actively facilitating international co-operation to come to grips with the most persistent problems facing society. One innovative proposal, which will be considered by the General Assembly at this session, is for the establishment of an International Commission on the Environment. The Commission would address one of the major challenges facing the international community by studying the impact of economic and social development on the world's environment up to and beyond the year 2000.

If the UN system is to deal effectively with the panoply of current issues, we the member states must not stray from the basic groundrules of the system. Universality of membership remains fundamental to the viability of the system. As stated in Article 4 of the Charter, membership in the UN should be open to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the Charter. This description