

part, we will make these the top priorities in our cooperative activities in Africa.

The OAU has underscored the importance of continuing the struggle against drought and desertification, and to improve public investment policies: these are factors that we too consider essential to recovery.

The OAU emphasizes the role of women in development. As a Canadian Minister, and as a woman, this issue is of critical importance to me. How can African women fully participate in the economic development of their continent if they are cut off from the technology, the training and the access to financial resources that they need?

The OUA also emphasizes the essential role to be played by the private sector. Right now Canada is undertaking a major review of its ODA programs. The philosophy of this review is to look at ways in which we can more effectively engage the dynamism of our commercial enterprises and our voluntary organisations in development initiatives.

By strengthening management institutions, by reforming monetary and financial policies, by introducing demographic policies, and by recognizing characteristics peculiar to each region, the OAU feels that essential elements of a solution can be found. How can we help but share this point of view?

We are heartened to hear the OAU address the need for us jointly to improve the effectiveness of our development cooperation, especially with respect to program support, evaluation of technical assistance, and aid coordination.

African countries seek an international economic environment supportive of growth, the elimination of protectionism, and pursuit of trade and agricultural policies favourable to developing countries. Canada supports these objectives. We will continue to support the strengthening of growth oriented policies through the IMF and the World Bank. We are committed to dealing with trade problems in a new negotiation within GATT. We are ready to explore how we can address cooperatively problems facing commodity producers within UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), and through World