

the urgent humanitarian needs of the refugees and for the most pressing programmes for self-sufficiency and local integration. They have estimated the needs as amounting to \$500 - \$800 million over two years. We strongly support the pragmatism of this phased approach.

Mr. Secretary-General, important programmes are already in place to assist the refugees -- under the auspices of the UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and many international non-governmental organizations. These organizations and their personnel deserve our highest praise for the committed and devoted assistance they are rendering to millions of African refugees in co-operation with the countries of asylum. Their programmes are valid. However, they are insufficient so far because adequate resources have not yet been found to permit a full and adequate response. We believe priority should be given to resources to meet the needs identified within the programmes of the international agencies.

Mr. Secretary-General, Canada's association with Africa is close and longstanding. In the United Nations and elsewhere we have long identified with African aspirations for independence and justice. For example, in recent years Canada helped in the process of securing internationally acceptable independence for Zimbabwe, and we remain actively engaged in efforts to achieve similar independence for Namibia. Our strong opposition to apartheid in South Africa has been given practical effect in economic and other measures we have taken with regard to that country. Our concern for the needs of Africa has led, over the years, to a strong and continuing Canadian commitment to African development, as witnessed by Canadian developmental assistance in almost every country on the continent, amounting to over \$300 million, or 45 per cent of our total bilateral aid programme.

We believe that African concerns are world concerns, and therefore also Canadian concerns. Our commitment to the aspirations of the peoples of Africa is manifest. Thus we feel an obligation to respond meaningfully to the major and growing African problem which is the subject of this conference, the plight of African refugees.

We intend to play a full part in responding to the pressing humanitarian needs of the refugees and in seeking solutions for underlying problems.