

Canadian Statement to the Plenary Session on  
November 22 on Item 51: Consolidation of the  
Special Fund and EPTA

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More than two years ago, Canada welcomed the proposal to consolidate the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund into one new programme to be known as the United Nations Development Programme. At that time, we made clear our belief that the objective of a merger should be to eliminate duplication, to strengthen the impact of the assistance provided, to speed up the implementation and evaluation of projects and to ensure that the assistance available is used for priority projects in countries which are making determined efforts to accelerate their rates of growth. Canada remains convinced that these and other benefits will result from the adoption of the resolution now before us.

Since the inception of the Special Fund six years ago, we have watched with interest and gratification the way in which it and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance have come to complement each other. We have also watched with satisfaction how new relations with the specialized agencies, including the World Bank, have evolved and have led to major advances in the variety and quality of the assistance provided. The increasing size and complexity of the two programmes, and their complementary nature, led us to the conclusion that formal amalgamation of their activities would help,--and here I quote the words of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board--"in the exploration of new areas in which each part of the new Programme can lend its own special characteristics to a united endeavour to make the most effective use of our combined resources".

We were also persuaded that in addition to giving a new dynamism to the technical co-operation efforts of the United Nations, such innovations as a single Inter-Agency Consultative Board would lead to yet more fruitful co-operation with other aid-giving agencies. We, in Canada, are further convinced that the consolidated Programme, bringing with it increased effectiveness and dynamism, will help to stimulate an increasing flow of contributions. We welcome the resolution recently adopted in the Second Committee which establishes an annual target of \$200 million for the Programme. On 2 November, Canada made a pledge to the new programme which is almost one-third more than it contributed to the two separate programmes last year. It is our hope that other countries will join in ensuring that increasing funds are made available, so that the potential contributions of the new Programme to the achievement of the goals of the Development Decade may be fully realized.

I do not wish to end my brief statement without paying tribute to the magnificent work done by Mr. Paul Hoffman, the Executive Director of the Special Fund, and Mr. David Owen, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board. The creative leadership they have given to the assistance programmes of the United Nations has been fundamental to their success. It is very satisfying to Canada that their services will be available to guide the new United Nations Development Programme as it begins its operations. Their experience, integrity and high intelligence will go far to ensure the success of that programme.