

in Mexico City, has strengthened the momentum generated on population issues over the past decade and identified emerging problems of global concern. The World Conference on Women, to be held in Nairobi next July, will provide an opportunity to develop forward-looking strategies to stimulate positive changes in the lives of women.

Fifth, under the auspices of the U.N. system, positive and often innovative legal regimes have been established in such critical fields as law of the sea, trade, outer space, civil aviation, telecommunications and the environment. The progressive extension of the rule of law is fundamental to the whole multilateral system.

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Mr. President, the record is much less positive in the area of peace and security. We can do more to make creative use of the machinery under the existing Charter to facilitate the peaceful settlement of specific disputes.

My Government wants the independence, sovereignty, and genuine non-alignment of Afghanistan restored, and foreign forces withdrawn from that battered country. We support the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and his special representative to accomplish this.

We support the ASEAN countries in their efforts to bring peace to the unfortunate country of Kampuchea, which continues to be occupied unlawfully.

Canada regrets the extension to Central America of East/West confrontation and the related militarization of the area. We applaud the initiative, skill and tenacity of the Contadora countries in their efforts to build a framework of reconciliation in the spirit of the U.N. Charter. We also welcome the opening of a direct dialogue between the USA and Nicaragua.

We need a negotiated settlement to end the suffering and destruction of the war between Iran and Iraq. We support the Secretary-General in building upon his recent success in obtaining the agreement of the belligerents to cease attacks on civilian population centres. His sending of a team to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons was also a useful action.