

countries, eliminating poverty, ensuring adequate nutrition and eradicating disease are top priorities and are inextricably linked to environment. We cannot find solutions to one set of problems without acting upon the other.

Environment and development must become a joint preoccupation. We know that developing countries need assistance to implement sustainable development. UNCED must address that issue head on. It must come to grips with the key cross-sectoral issues, namely, human settlements; poverty and sustainability; financial resources; technology transfer; and the international economic environment including questions of terms of trade and debt.

Mr. President, an important distinction between UNCED and other major conferences is the vital role played by the many sectors outside of government. Youth, women, indigenous people, business and industry, labour, the world's cities, both environmental and developmental non-governmental organizations, universities and colleges and scientific associations with competence and relevance have been actively participating in the UNCED process. These sectors will be in attendance at UNCED to undertake parallel activities focussing on their contributions to the implementation of sustainable development. They will be writing their own chapters of Agenda 21. And the conference should be structured to facilitate their special and important contributions.

Mr. President, there are simply no viable alternatives to practical, future-oriented results.

Conclusion

As we begin this 46th General Assembly, the challenges we face are as great as the opportunities. Throughout our deliberations, we must constantly remind ourselves that we are not here to represent blocs, nor to promote ideologies, but to represent people:

"We the peoples of the United Nations."

Never have these words meant more or held more promise. But, words alone are not enough. They cannot turn famine into bounty, discrimination into equality, repression into freedom, or brutality into compassion. They will mean little if we fail to give ourselves the tools for effective action or if we succumb to the temptation of unilateralism.

Mr. President, Canada is determined not only to honour those words, but to ensure that this Organization has the means to put them into practice. Canadians want to live on a planet which is