

THUS THE MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WE ALL FACE ARE AT LEAST REGIONAL AND OFTEN GLOBAL IN NATURE. AND THAT TAKES US BACK TO STOCKHOLM.

TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THE PRINCIPLES OF STOCKHOLM IS NOT JUST A SYMBOLIC GESTURE. IT IS AN ESSENTIAL BASE FROM WHICH TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES BEFORE US. CANADA REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND REGARDS THE STOCKHOLM DECLARATION AS A BASIC CHARTER LAYING DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. SOME OF ITS PRINCIPLES, PARTICULARLY PRINCIPLE 21 CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATES, REFLECT EXISTING CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW. OTHERS WHICH MAY NOT YET FORM PART OF CUSTOMARY LAW HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TREATIES.

MR CHAIRMAN, IF I MAY SAY SO WITHOUT OFFENDING THOSE PRESENT, THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS. IT SHOULD BE THE PROPER BUSINESS OF EVERYONE. THE MAJOR DECISIONS AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT ARE NOT MADE ONLY BY PEOPLE WHO ATTEND THIS KIND OF CONFERENCE, BUT INDUSTRIALISTS, ECONOMIC PLANNERS, ENERGY DEVELOPERS AND BY THE PRESSURE FOR MERE SURVIVAL BY THE VERY POOR. THESE ARE THE SECTORS WHOSE UN COUNTERPARTS THIS ORGANIZATION, UNEP, MUST ADVISE