

## CONDUCTING AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE UN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Let me turn to the Agenda for Development presented by the Secretary-General. Progress on this is essential to overcome the perception of aimlessness and drift on economic matters, of which I spoke to the General Assembly. UN success in the fields of peace and security, human rights, the environment and humanitarian action would otherwise be jeopardized.

We look to the Agenda for Development to do three things. First, it must set out a fresh and human-centred vision of development — one that captures the principles of democracy, respect for human rights, environmental soundness, social priority, and good political and economic governance. The recent World Summit on Social Development is the fourth of five UN Conferences to have focussed the attention of the international community on specific, critical aspects of the Agenda for Development. In Copenhagen, a framework to enhance the relationship between the social and economic agendas of all nations was adopted. While it can not be expected to resolve all issues relating to poverty, unemployment and social integration, it was an important first step. Canada will continue to work with the international community to implement commitments made in the Declaration and Programme of Action.

Second, the Agenda should define the role of the United Nations in the development field and methods for effective co-operation with other organizations, such as the International Financial Institutions [IFIs].

The review of International Financial Institutions is of particular interest to the Prime Minister, and as such, will constitute one of the major themes of discussions at the G-7 [Group of Seven] Summit in Halifax.

Third, the Agenda for Development should accelerate reform aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness of the UN institutions operating in the economic and social fields, and increasing co-operation among them. In the proper fora, Canada and other countries should be ready to review mandates where necessary to ensure relevance, and duplication and overlap must be eliminated. Policy coherence and co-ordination within the UN system should be improved through a more effective ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council] that discharges, for the first time, its Charter responsibilities for these functions; the autonomy of specialized agencies should not inhibit system-wide approaches to shared objectives.

The first meeting of the Working Group set up by the General Assembly to build on the reports of the Secretary-General took