

-- victims of their own governments -- even in this radically changed environment, there are individuals who continue to suffer and whose names must be brought to the attention of this forum.

I bring these issues forward because I believe we can now approach our discussions in a new co-operative spirit -- one in which we help each other to find solutions -- not simply identify problems. We have a better understanding of the complexities of democratic society and the very difficult challenge of finding the right balance between rights, freedoms and responsibilities. We need to focus on those areas that require special attention -- minority rights, hate propaganda, anti-semitism, democratic development (recalling that our experts will be discussing this subject in detail in Oslo in November).

The Copenhagen Document signed last June is comprehensive and continues to be a valid guide for us. It does not need to be rewritten here in Moscow. However, there are areas which have not received the attention they deserve. At this meeting Canada will be presenting proposals on two such important areas: the question of women's equality and the role of an independent judiciary in democratic society.

Women's equality is fundamental to building a democratic society in which all members of society are afforded the same rights and responsibilities. I believe you will find our proposal clear and comprehensive with its roots in the work of the UN in its forward-looking strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It includes issues such as the need to accelerate de facto equality between women and men, to encourage full participation by women in all aspects of political and public life, the vital role of women's non-governmental organizations and the need to take effective measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly the disturbing problem of domestic violence. I believe the time is long overdue for CSCE countries to address this question in a meaningful way. We will be looking for your support.

Similarly, we want an agreement in the Moscow Document on the independence of the judiciary.

This principle is fundamental to the establishment and maintenance of societies based on the rule of law. Building on the work of the United Nations, we would like to see CSCE Participating States commit themselves to certain standards and principles regarding the independence of judges and legal practitioners. We also look forward to your support on this initiative.

In this same spirit, we will carefully consider proposals made by other delegations and we shall support those which accelerate the human dimension process.