

Mr. President,

Let me first pay tribute to you for being elected to preside over our deliberations, and to the government and country you represent for the vision in hosting this meeting and the excellent arrangements which have been made for us. It is now up to us as delegates to ensure that the names of Belgrade and UNCTAD VI remain linked as a source of pride to all concerned.

I am honoured to be able to address this important gathering of the world's nations at a time when our challenges are so great and our peoples expect so much of us. At stake here in Belgrade is our ability, as a community of nations, to work together to solve the problems that beset us all.

I am not suggesting, Mr. President, that over the course of the next few weeks we can come up with master plans or magic solutions for the spectres of recession, inflation, protectionism, unemployment, poverty, debt, high interest rates and fluctuating exchange rates which have haunted us all in one form or another in recent years - with the poorest among us having been the hardest hit. There are no quick fixes to the problems which are deep and ingrained in the world economy.

I am suggesting, however, that the time has come, here at UNCTAD VI, to give a message to the world that we are prepared to try to do things differently than we have managed in the past. If this Conference breaks up in recrimination and disunity, I would fear - deeply fear - that such an outcome would set back the cause of international cooperation at a moment when it urgently needs a boost. We must, Mr. President, convince our nations that, although we do not always know the answers, although there are inevitably differences of perspective and approach among us, we have learned some lessons from recent years.

One of the most important of these lessons, in my opinion, can be summed up in a word which has come to be overused and sometimes misused, but is still vital -

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