

addressing such questions as the protection of the ozone layer and the movement of hazardous wastes, are testimony to the ability of the world community to respond to potential and actual environmental threats. Still, much more effort is needed to address the many pressing environmental problems that threaten our planet, including the greenhouse effect, marine pollution, acid rain, land degradation and the extinction of numerous animal and plant species. The Decade should help galvanize the international efforts in that domain.

Mr. President,

In the past, Canada has expressed concern for the proliferation of international years and decades within the United Nations which have often proved costly and unfocussed. We consider it important to plan well all aspects of the Decade so as to avoid the pitfalls that have proved so costly with other decades, in terms of both financial and human resources.

The Economic and Social Council, at its 16th Plenary Meeting on May 24th this year, recommended to the General Assembly for adoption this year a set of revised Guidelines for International Decades in Economic and Social Fields. Without focusing on the question of whether international law is implicitly included in these fields, we are of the view that these Guidelines, endorsed by such an important body as ECOSOC, provide important direction for the item before us. They stipulate, inter alia that:

"Proposals for international decades should include a draft program of action with well defined objectives and activities to be carried out at the international, regional and national levels. The activities should be directed towards clearly defined objectives. The draft program of action should indicate the proposed organizational arrangements and modalities for financing, from both budgetary and extra-budgetary sources, as well as procedures for monitoring implementation."

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would simply like to emphasize the importance that Canada attaches to the success of the proposed decade of international law, and to confirm that we will do all in our collective power to ensure that the Decade is a productive one.

Thank you.

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