

In this regard, Canada unreservedly condemns those who persist in obstructing democracy in Haiti, and reiterates its full support for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Canada shares with Mauritius the privilege of being a bilingual and multicultural country. Consequently, you will understand that Canada attaches great importance to the theme of unity in diversity.

The Mauritius Summit invites us to follow in the footsteps of Chaillet, emphasizing the stabilizing, enriching influence of minorities, be they ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious.

The multiplicity of local conflicts arising from nationalistic tendencies tragically illustrates just how much failure to respect human rights or to ensure fundamental freedoms jeopardizes the stability and security of many of the world's regions.

Children are often the very first victims of these sad situations because of their particular vulnerability to conflict, poverty and famine. Canada saw the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Children in Dakar as an encouraging sign that the international Francophone community was mobilizing to assist children. Canada promised to be closely involved in the 10-year action plan adopted at the conference.

Mr. Prime Minister, Canada will make a financial commitment toward implementing concrete measures resulting from this conference. On the one hand, we aim to improve educational systems and training for young people; on the other, we aim to promote functional literacy among women to combat discrimination against them in education and to prepare them better for their role as educators and catalysts of development.

Beyond the resolutions that we will adopt here in Mauritius, Canada earnestly hopes that this summit will mark the beginning of a thorough examination of the international role that la Francophonie can and must play in establishing greater political and economic stability. Our community must answer the urgent appeal issued in his "Agenda for Peace" by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a veteran of our summits, whose presence among us I am, in turn, pleased to acknowledge.

In the same vein, Canada will continue to seek the Francophone community's support for the non-proliferation of weapons, including the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. Prime Minister, we have said, "no true freedom without development." This is the meaning that must be given to