

General Assembly and the ECOSOC to a wider range of views, such as in the World Hearings on Development, should be encouraged.

Assistance programs can be improved. Consolidation and integration would give these programs greater impact and focus and reduce unnecessary overheads. Co-ordination with specialized agencies remains a vital concern. We should also ask ourselves whether assistance programs on the scale of the UN should not be geared even more to the needs of the poorest countries.

This debate marks the beginning of a new phase in our work on an Agenda for Development. I have sought here to set the Canadian view of some of the key issues that need to be addressed. In terms of next steps, we should look to the early establishment of a working group that would build on the good base offered by the Secretary-General. It could sharpen the expression of priorities within the UN and make suggestions on the changes required to act on them effectively.

As we near the UN's 50th anniversary, the Agenda for Development presents us with an opportunity to revitalize our approach to development and to reposition the UN in the centre of the development debate.

This is an opportunity that we cannot afford to let go.

Thank you, Mr. President.