

end of the decade for women. Nations of the world are now agreed on a plan of action for the advancement of women over the next 15 years. Canadians are proud of the role that our delegation played in encouraging that consensus, and our government will be seeking ways to move ahead on the Nairobi strategies. It goes without saying that the objectives of the forward-looking strategies must be fully respected by the UN itself, in the programs it undertakes, and the appointments it makes at senior levels. Less than 6 per cent of the major professional UN posts are currently occupied by women and it is clear that this institution itself has some considerable distance to go towards equity.

This session will be a time to pursue serious reform of the procedures of the UN. In the harsh Canadian winter, houses that slip into disrepair are eventually abandoned, precisely because they offer none of the protection they were designed to provide. This house of the United Nations must not be allowed to slip into disrepair.

And we must note that disrepair is showing. Divisive political issues intrude too often into specialized agencies. The agenda of the Assembly and its committees is overloaded regularly by ritual debates. Some rich countries refuse to pay their dues, while others threaten to reduce their share. The Secretary-General has courageously and repeatedly identified these weaknesses.

Changes and reforms are central to the United Nations' existence. We must restore to this distinguished Assembly the authority given to it by the Charter. We must, accordingly, review our efforts and in a systematic fashion lay out for ourselves realizable goals and objectives. We have sent Canadians to Cyprus, the Golan and other trouble spots because we want the world system to work. What Canadians have helped secure in crisis, we intend to preserve now. Delegations will be aware that Canada, with others, has been working in past months to devise and carry through a pragmatic and feasible set of measures with this purpose in mind. We will continue our co-operative efforts with all interested delegations in this search which is made doubly urgent by the critical substantive issues before us, to which I now turn.

Surveying the landscape of world affairs on this fortieth anniversary, we find no field is bleaker than that of arms control and disarmament. We must face the fact that not a single substantive agreement has come out of the multilateral arms-control process during the first half of the Second Disarmament Decade. Not at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, not at the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna, not at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

But I have not come here to lament, rather to offer the encouragement and support of Canada in building a climate of confidence necessary for disarmament agreements. No matter the frustration, we must never give up in our determination to construct a world security system that depends on fewer, not more, arms. If more political will is necessary, then let us assert that political will, particularly as we move into 1986, which has been designated International Year of Peace.

In the complex process of arms control and disarmament, priorities must be set straight.

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