

In this connection the coming year will provide two opportunities to encourage this new dialogue:

- the Special Session on the Revitalization of Growth and Development; and
- the elaboration of the Fourth International Development Strategy.

These two events can contribute to a new understanding of the basis for sustained economic growth and development, particularly for developing countries.

The challenge before us today is to alter our traditional behaviour at an unprecedented rate, in the face of a planet showing so many signs of use and abuse.

We know only too well the litany of global horrors before us:

- A burgeoning global population whose size will expand by almost 3.5 billion in thirty-five short years.
- An ailing environment whose forests are dying or disappearing, whose air is being poisoned, and whose oceans and rivers are becoming dump-sites and cesspools.
- 14 million children dying each year from common illness and poor nutrition.
- A generation debilitated by drugs, the world trade in which now exceeds the value of trade in oil and is second only to the arms trade.
- Dozens of economies unable to simultaneously pay for past mistakes and develop a successful future.
- And the proliferation of weapons - chemical and nuclear, as well as the spreading technology of weapon delivery systems - creating a time bomb which threatens the relief we now feel at the superpowers' new-found co-operation.

This Organization, like other international assemblies, reflects the world from which it draws its members and its mission.