

Second, problems such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, ozone depletion, atmospheric degradation, depletion of ocean resources and the expansion of deserts require worldwide co-operation for global solutions.

Third, the environment and development are closely linked: they cannot be dealt with in isolation from each other.

The purpose of Agenda 21 is to promote sustainable development. Our meeting here in Santiago should help identify the best uses of space activity to achieve the objectives set in Rio.

Long before a satellite is built, before new applications are found, people from different backgrounds and different parts of the world must get together and exchange ideas. Broad objectives are then defined, and projects identified.

Education is the fundamental requirement for the emergence of scientists and engineers who are able to elaborate such ideas. It is therefore appropriate that one of the working groups of this conference deals with education issues.

With the priority of education in mind, Canada developed an interactive encyclopedia on global change, called Geoscope, as its contribution to the international space year. The first version of this software will be available this fall. This encyclopedia vividly illustrates the environmental changes occurring on earth and in the near-earth environment. Geoscope will provide hands-on experience to people around the world, and will confirm the vital importance of satellite data in monitoring the global environment.

Research is of paramount importance, and for many years Canada has had a significant global environmental research program. On March 25, Canada signed an agreement to establish the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. We believe this institute is a prime example of how regional co-operation in the Americas can be organized.

Last year, in co-operation with the European Space Agency, Canada carried out an airborne radar remote-sensing project over six countries of Latin America, as part of the Sarex '92 campaign. The results of this component of Canada's tropical forestry initiative were communicated to you by a representative of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing on Monday. This project was so successful that it is serving as a model for Globesar, a similar campaign being planned for this fall in Europe, Africa and Asia that will demonstrate and investigate the applications of radar remote-sensing data in a wide variety of fields.

Through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada is contributing to follow-up projects related to the Sarex campaign in Costa Rica. Moreover, IDRC has contributed to