
prepared to discuss with interested parties the possibility of increased activity in this area.

Canada recognizes that there are limits - to the rate at which the earth's resources can be exploited, to the capacity of the biosphere to absorb pollution, and to global capacity to support human life. We recognize the need for a greater sense of responsibility to conserve our global resources. We consider, therefore, that countries, particularly developed countries, should examine their production and consumption activities with a view to promoting more efficient patterns of utilization. Furthermore, we consider that genuine co-operation is needed to attempt to remove the institutional political and socio-economic barriers to the better development of each country's human and natural resources.

Canada also recognizes the importance of the promotion of individual human rights in the formulation of population policies, and particularly the preservation of individual freedom of choice in fertility matters. We consider that special emphasis should be placed on efforts to enhance the status of women, both as a desirable end in itself and also as a prominent factor related to population trends and development.

These and many other factors have been well reflected in the Draft World Population Plan of Action to be adopted by this conference. My Government has reviewed this document carefully and, on the whole, considers it a well-reasoned, balanced expression of the diverse facets of population problems and alternatives to deal with them. We shall work for the adoption of this document as a vehicle for enhanced national and international action on population matters. We consider that international institutions, particularly those of the UN system, can play a more effective role in assisting developing countries to deal with population, and we are prepared to assume our share of the responsibility for meeting increased future needs.

Conclusion

The agenda we have before us presents a challenge both to sovereign governments to define national population policies and to the international community to co-operate more effectively in dealing with the global forces that are shaping man's destiny. We know that population is a crucial factor in our planet's future. And we are beginning to perceive more clearly both the dimensions and the means each sovereign state can use to shape that future.

Canada is here to listen and to learn. We hope debate at this con-