

urges acceptance of the Conventions on Climate Change and on Biological Diversity in a ringing call to action: "As political leaders, our job is to force the pace and stretch out the limits of international cooperation. Nations... have the human genius to create a world free from deprivation and secure from degradation. What remains is for governments to provide the leadership the world so desperately needs."

The job of this General Assembly is to continue to stretch the limits and to demonstrate that leadership, through the establishment of both a Commission on Sustainable Development and the Conference on the High Seas.

There are as well many issues of process, such as the reform of the UN development system, which require our immediate time and attention. Canada put forward detailed proposals in this regard in July in the Economic and Social Council, and we will continue to take an active role in this matter.

What a large task we have set ourselves!

However, one of the lessons that we have learned in the post-Cold War era is that there is no breathing space; there is no long pause for contemplation and reflection. Decisions must be made on a timely basis, and when those decisions are made, all Member States must vigorously support and abide by them.

Last month, at the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia, I made it clear that Canada is losing patience with much of the posturing that historically masquerades as international diplomacy. I know that others in this Assembly share this frustration. But, as we speak, the body count rises in what is left of Bosnia-Herzegovina, not to mention the thousands of men, women and children facing starvation in Somalia.

The United Nations needs the commitment of its Member States, it needs well-thought-out decisions, and it needs follow-up action. Anything less is failure.

Let us not spend the next four or five years debating the niceties of "this" principle or "that" concept. Let us all get on with the job of building peace and prosperity.

No one should be here if they are not prepared to work towards those noble objectives, and no one should leave without confirming their commitment to work together for the benefit of all the peoples of the world. ■

Arms Control and Disarmament Must Contribute to Cooperative Security

Ambassador for Disarmament Addresses UN

The following are excerpts from the statement of Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Peggy Mason, to the UN General Assembly First Committee in New York on October 15. The next issue of The Disarmament Bulletin will include a summary of arms control and disarmament resolutions adopted by the 47th session of the General Assembly (UNGA 47).

The Global Security Environment

Canada joins other nations in welcoming the complete demise of the Cold War era. The unprecedented levels of armaments built up in those times of East-West tensions were an intolerable burden to both sides and, indirectly, to the world community. The arms race generated by the Cold War was the central challenge to the cause of arms control and disarmament. It is testimony to the perseverance of the UN, the Conference on Disarmament, the CSCE and other multilateral arms control bodies that so much was accomplished even when the political climate seemed so bleak.

We must realize, however, that the challenge today is to adapt our hard-earned successes in arms control and disarmament to the new threats to international security emerging in the aftermath of the Cold War.

It is for this reason that we welcome the general recognition that the work of this Committee must be firmly situated in the larger context of global security. Arms control is an instrument, not a goal in itself. During the Cold War, the goal was to contain and control East-West tensions. Now we must seek to understand the conditions necessary for global security, and to use arms control agreements to help build the foundation on which global security can be based.

On many occasions my government has emphasized the need to promote democracy as a basis for harmonious relations between states...

There is also an obvious connection between development and democracy. Nations and peoples must be able to enjoy a

reasonable standard of living if democracy is to flourish. This is where arms control and disarmament find their place. If we can reach agreement on the global control of armaments and on measures for disarmament, then we improve prospects for regional and global stability, and for "true peace and security."

As we now address these large and complex questions, Canada welcomes the seminal guidance provided by the Secretary-General's report, *An Agenda for Peace*. His emphasis on "peace-building," for example, provides the broader context for the work of this Committee. His support for stronger links between the United Nations and regional organizations may also point the way for our future deliberations.

Regional Approaches

As the newest member of the Organization of American States (OAS), Canada has sought to share with its hemispheric partners its long experience in verification and the development of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). The OAS now has a working group studying the application of these measures to regional security. Other regional organizations might also profit from the experience and successes of multilateral arms control.

Canada is actively seeking to promote peace through its participation in all five working groups established within the framework of the multilateral negotiations of the Middle East peace process...

The efforts of the Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security are especially important and relevant to the deliberations of this body. Discussions within the Working Group have focused on a wide range of confidence-building and arms control measures with a view to building peace and stability in the region.

Canada, as one of the non-regional parties in the multilateral phase of the peace process, aims above all to support the efforts of the co-sponsors and all participants to move forward the overall peace process. Responsibility for resolving the