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# news release

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## UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHES COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and Environment Minister Jean Charest today welcomed the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution establishing the Commission on Sustainable Development. Canada has played an active role throughout the discussions leading up to the establishment of the Commission.

"The global character of environment problems means that no nation can act in isolation. We all face common sets of problems that need new co-operative efforts if we are to deal with them," said Mrs. McDougall. "This Commission is a significant step forward in getting the world community to organize itself to better deal with the challenges of sustainable development."

"Canada looks forward to open and constructive exchanges with other members of the Commission on their action plans for Agenda 21," said Mr. Charest. "Canada is also committed to sharing its Green Plan experience with other countries as they prepare their sustainable development plans."

The Commission has been given a comprehensive and forward-looking mandate regarding the implementation of Agenda 21, the principal document agreed to by world leaders at the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, its mandate will cover the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Guiding Principles on Forests, and new co-operative arrangements related to sustainable development. Canada will look to the Commission to build international co-operation on forests and fisheries and to provide impetus to the development of international environmental law.

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