

issues. We are prepared to contribute both expertise and personnel to get it started soon.

While the UN needs to do more to rein in spending and to promote efficiency, its financial crisis would be greatly alleviated if its Member States were to meet their financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions. Canada calls on all Member States to do so. We cannot accept that Member States, some of which rank among the richest countries in the world, fail to meet their financial obligations to this institution. This is even more difficult to accept when we consider that a number of the poorest countries in the world meet their payments in full and on time. Indeed, among the merely 60 Member States that met their regular budget obligations to the UN fully by July 31st of this year, 32 were developing countries. Unfortunately, 71 other Member States had made no payment at all. Almost 100 countries still owe money from previous years, including several members of the Security Council. The majority of Member States appear content to approve programs, appropriations and assessments without honouring the obligations to which they are committed. This is unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue.

The General Assembly's High Level Working Group considering the UN's financial plight should begin looking at the establishment of incentives to pay. It should also agree on an equitable method of sharing the burden, free of the distortions that characterize the present scale of assessments.

Mr. President, I have sought to pay tribute to this Organization's achievements, and to emphasize that Canada strongly supports the United Nations. We are prepared to contribute concretely and actively to its revitalization and renewal. But confidence will be restored and commitment renewed only through a partnership in which Member States live up to their commitments and focus on key priorities that respond to human-centred goals for sustainable security and development. If we are successful, and I believe we will be, I have no doubt that 50 years from now our successors will be able to praise, without hesitation or qualification, the record of the Organization's first one hundred years.

Thank you, Mr. President.