

INTO ACCOUNT, TO FACTOR "ADJUSTMENT WITH A HUMAN FACE" INTO THEIR VARIOUS PROGRAMS. BUT THE FEAR OF SOCIAL DISCOMFORT MUST NOT BECOME AN EXCUSE FOR INACTION, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE - AND THIS IS SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN IN DISCUSSIONS OF THESE MATTERS - THE EVENTUAL CONSEQUENCES OF RESISTING ADJUSTMENT FALL EVEN MORE HEAVILY ON THESE SAME POOREST SECTORS.

THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHOSE SITUATION IS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO US AT THIS TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. MY DELEGATION WILL INTERVENE DURING THE DEBATE ON THAT ITEM IN THE SECOND SESSIONAL COMMITTEE. NEVERTHELESS, I WANTED TO NOTE AT THIS TIME THAT THE CHALLENGE OF ADJUSTMENT IS BOTH ACUTE AND DIFFERENT IN THE LLDCS. THE SEVERE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF THESE COUNTRIES, CHARACTERIZED BY A POOR INFRASTRUCTURE, A NARROW EXPORT BASE AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH MAKE SUPPLY CAPACITY QUITE INFLEXIBLE, DIMINISH THEIR RESPONSIVENESS TO STANDARD ADJUSTMENT MEASURES. THIS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT ADJUSTMENT CANNOT WORK IN THESE COUNTRIES, BUT RATHER THAT IT WILL BE A LENGTHY TASK INVOLVING QUITE PROFOUND REFORMS AND CHANGES. WE HAVE RECOGNISED THAT EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ADJUSTMENT IN THESE COUNTRIES MUST BE GEARED TO THE LONGER TIME FRAME INVOLVED, BE IT FROM THE IMF, THE WORLD BANK, OR THE PARIS CLUB, AND HAVE SUPPORTED INITIATIVES IN ALL THESE BODIES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED ON A CONCESSIONAL BASIS OVER A LONGER TIME FRAME. IN THIS CONTEXT, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

MR. PRESIDENT, IF I HAVE DWELT SOMEWHAT ON THE TOPIC OF ADJUSTMENT, THAT REFLECTS THE VIEW OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT IT REPRESENTS THE KEY ECONOMIC POLICY CHALLENGE OF THE DAY. FOR THAT REASON, WE ARE ESPECIALLY HEARTENED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE CLEAR TREND AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS AND TO SEEK EXTERNAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE, MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM. MY COUNTRY IS DETERMINED TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS.

THANK YOU.