

other's opinions as we work toward a set of positions that are broadly representative of the needs of Canadians and those of the world as a whole.

But I believe that there is another element to the importance of NGO involvement in UNCED. When the 30,000 people expected in Rio for UNCED have gone home again, when the last story has been filed by the last journalist and the last debriefing note has been written by the last official, there will still be a world needing help. There will still be so much to do.

Much, hopefully, will be done by governments. However, much will have to come from people -- the now-famous "ordinary Canadians" and the ordinary Americans, Brazilians and Tanzanians. They will have to continue to understand the environmental impacts of their decisions. They will have to understand the changes that may come in lifestyles and their demands on the environment.

NGOs will play an important role in both encouraging public debate on these kinds of issues and in informing citizens generally. With Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter, we will have committed governments to certain standards of action and goals. But NGOs will play an important part in their achievement.

Because ultimately, the success of our efforts will be measured by what people do, not by what they say.

I hope that the co-operation that you have shown in preparation for UNCED will continue.

I say that because I am proud of the way in which Canadians from many backgrounds have come together to participate in Canada's preparations for UNCED. People have set aside differences of opinion and policy to focus attention on the task at hand, a task which will need long-term co-operation and commitment from many parties.

I think, more than anything, it is the process, the involvement of individuals, communities and governments, that will really take us forward from Rio. If there is one lesson that governments have learned over the past decade, it is that there are many things they cannot do alone. They require partners in Canada and they require partners abroad. UNCED has given us the best opportunity we've ever had to forge the partnerships we will require to resolve these issues.

I thank you for your commitment to that partnership so far, and I look forward to your continued commitment.

Thank you very much.