

## Foreword

With the fiftieth anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights coming at the end of the year, the Group of 78 needed little discussion to agree on a topic for the 1998 annual conference. But more than a simple anniversary, the rapid expansion in the possibility for worldwide activism in the cause of human rights since the end of the Cold War almost ten years ago made this a timely topic. The conference drew a turnout of 66 people including 48 members.

We are much indebted to the speakers who put time and effort into giving the conference a solid base of expert knowledge on the wide range of human-rights issues on the conference program. We have many others to thank for making the conference such a success:

**Members of the Conference Coordinating Committee:** Nancy Drozd, Ross Francis, Geoffrey Pearson, Michael Shenstone, Ken Williamson, and Christopher Young.

**Chairpersons of Conference Sessions:** Marie-Hélène Courtemanche Boyle, Newton Bowles, Laurie Wiseberg, Nevitt Maybee, Dwight Fulford, Douglas Anglin, Metta Spencer, Ross Francis, and Shirley Farlinger.

**Conference Chair:** A special word of thanks goes to Christopher Young, whose chairmanship of the conference was his final duty in two years as chairperson of the Group of 78. We have greatly appreciated his deferential guidance, broad grasp of international affairs and great talents as an organizer, writer and editor.

**Reporting:** For their contribution to the report to the plenary session and this final report we would like to thank the assistant rapporteurs, Silke Reichrach and Chantal Couture, both students at the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs.

**Translation:** Jacques Langlais and Mario Longpré

**Background Papers:** Ross Francis

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Debbie Grisdale  
Co-Chairperson, G78

Tim Creery  
Co-Chairperson, G78 and Conference Rapporteur