

Canada, demonstrate Canada's commitment, as a major trader of manufactured products and of commodities, to a more open and equitable trading system.

Mr. President, the task of this conference is to incorporate into the substantial new programme of action a series of measures which will help alleviate some of the problems to which I have already referred. Canada believes there are two main components to the substantial new programme of action. First, action which each least-developed country itself can take in adapting its domestic policies and priorities in a manner which ensures its economic and social development. Second, action which the international community, both donors and developing countries in a position to do so, can take to assist the least-developed.

The importance of changes in domestic policy in the least-developed countries has been highlighted most recently in the World Development Report of the World Bank and the UNCTAD Trade and Development Report. Secretary General Corea devoted an entire chapter of his report to the Conference on domestic policy measures, and referred to it in his opening speech to the conference. Mr. President, there is a need to announce during this conference that the governments of the least-developed countries share this perception and are committed to measures which will set a solid foundation for effective support measures by the international community.

This latter element, the second major component of the substantial new programme of action, includes increased concessional resource transfers, improvements in the quality of aid modalities, commercial policy measures, and co-operation among developing countries. Several targets or sub-targets for aid flows have been proposed by the Group of 77. As I have said earlier, Canada attaches great importance to increased development assistance to the least-developed countries. This conference should, however, be wary of an inflexibility which could be created by techniques such as sub-targets. These could distort the efforts of bilateral donors. At the multilateral level, particularly in the international financial institutions, such sub-targets would be especially constraining. For example, Mr. President, the African Development Fund disbursed approximately 83 percent of its funds to the least-developed countries in 1980, while the Inter-American Development Bank could only direct five percent of its funds to the least developed, in this case, Haiti. We believe