

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, it is an honour and a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the OECD in fostering international economic cooperation not only between Canada and other member states, but also between all states around the world.

The growth of the OECD, in the twenty years since its foundation, to twenty-four members from Western Europe, North America and the Pacific, is a testimony to the continuing attraction of the OECD ideal and the Organization's record in the attainment of its objectives. This ideal, seeking to promote world prosperity through the cooperation of a group of countries with certain shared basic perceptions of their economies and societies, has enabled our different social, economic and cultural structures to contribute to a broader global perspective and stimulate the spirit of cooperation.

Though our member countries also belong to other international bodies, the broad forum at the OECD, where we can meet to discuss issues with like-minded partners, remains essential. Here we can consider in a trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific framework, not only today's overriding economic problems, but also those more technical issues so important to the quality of life of present and future generations.

We look to the Organization for leadership and inspiration in the difficult times that lie ahead. Control of inflation, economic recovery and adjustment to new circumstances, and the fight against protectionism will be impossible for individual governments alone to sustain. Together, however, we can work to meet these difficult challenges.

The realities of global interdependence will require increasing attention to the North-South dimension of international economic relations over the coming months. I am conscious of what the OECD has already done to promote economic development and better understanding of the problems of developing countries. In order, however, that the OECD countries continue to play their full part at this critical stage in the development of the world economy, it will be important to encourage analysis by the Secretariat and greater discussion among member countries.