

economic policies of other countries had relatively little direct impact on Canada; today they can intrude directly on the life of every Canadian community. So it is with all communities, in all countries. In so small a modern world, we are exposed, inescapably, to common problems, which none of us can solve alone. Instead of retreating inward, the world must reach out, not only to celebrate an anniversary, but to cope with the inescapable reality of modern times.

I renew today the commitment that successive Canadian governments have made to the United Nations since its creation from the ashes of the Second World War. Prime Minister Mulroney reaffirmed Canada's aspirations for the U.N. personally to the Secretary-General during his official, and very welcome, visit to Canada earlier this year. Next month, the Canadian Prime Minister will join many other world leaders here to proclaim anew the value of the U.N.

This General Assembly, then, will be a time for remembering what has been accomplished over four decades: the virtual end of colonialism, the international recognition of human rights, a commitment to general and complete disarmament, a program for strengthening the financial and trading systems of the world, a Convention on the Law of the Sea, treaties on wide-ranging subjects, inroads on illiteracy, advancement of the status of women.

We are particularly pleased at the consensus that was found at Nairobi, at the Conference marking the end of the Decade for Women. Nations of the world are now agreed on a plan of action for the advancement of women over the next fifteen years. Canadians are proud of the role that our Delegation played in encouraging that consensus, and our government will be seeking ways to move ahead on the Nairobi Strategies. It goes without saying that the objectives of the Forward-Looking Strategies must be fully respected by the UN itself, in the programs it undertakes, and the appointments it makes at senior levels. Less than 6% of the major professional UN posts are currently occupied by women and it is clear that this institution itself has some considerable distance to go towards equity.

Mr. President,

This session will be a time to pursue serious reform of the procedures of the U.N. In the harsh Canadian winter, houses that slip into disrepair are eventually abandoned, precisely because they offer none of the protection they were designed to provide. This house of the United Nations must not be allowed to slip into disrepair.