

One portion worthy of special emphasis is Paragraph Two, which endeavours to link the concept of advisory services to human rights activities under other agenda items -- the work of special rapporteurs and representatives, the Working Group on Disappearances, and the conclusion and recommendations of treaty-based bodies. My Government believes that these individuals and groups should constantly bear in mind the existence of the Advisory Services Programme and the possibility of identifying concrete action to address human rights problems confronted in the course of their work.

With respect to the Voluntary Fund, we welcome this initiative of the UnderSecretary-General for Human Rights and we look forward to close cooperation between the Centre and interested governments in tapping the potential offered by his new mechanism. Canada became the first contributor to the Fund last year. We are most encouraged by the number of contributions made to date and hope that other governments will find themselves in a position to make early subscriptions in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes particularly to commend the Secretary-General for having put before the Commission an "Outline for a Medium Term Plan of Activities" under the Advisory Services Programme. Such a forward-looking approach will play a critical role in putting the Programme on a firm footing. The types of activities outlined in the proposed plan merit support and funding. We are especially conscious of the need for the Fund to focus, especially during its formative years, on a few clearly delineated practical measures to assist in the development of human rights institutions. The careful identification of appropriate target groups, which is emphasized in the proposed plan, will be of particular importance. We endorse the suggestion that target groups should include regional groups and organizations, national governments and non-governmental human rights organizations.

We also support the idea that individual elements of the Programme should be supported by intensive information campaigns. If we have one caveat in this connection, it would be the following: As emphasized in our statement the other night under Item 11, dissemination of information is important, but it should not be regarded in and of itself as the predominant element or the ultimate end of the Advisory Services Programme. It should rather be addressed as an integral and essentially supportive component of our overall effort to assist