the rural environment is the result of an imbalance between human activities and the environment itself, not to mention the lack of priority accorded the rural sector in most African economies.

African countries and international donors must pay more attention to the environment at both the regional and project level. At this moment in time, there is a conference on desertification in Dakar, and there is also the Report of the Summit Group of Experts on the Crisis in Africa proposing a similar conference to be held in Paris in February 1986. Canada looks forward to the results of these meetings in order to better co-ordinate our own work in this area. In fact, Canada's assistance program to the Sahel has, as one of its three focuses, the stabilization of vegetative cover precisely to protect this delicate environmental balance.

(2) Financial resources include domestic holdings such as private and public savings, as well as foreign aid and export earnings. We are encouraged by the Organization of African Unity Summit Meeting Declaration of 1985 which called for increasing agriculture's share of total national investment to between 20 and 25 per cent by 1989. Obviously however, agriculture cannot stand alone — all national investment rates must be increased.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) estimates that the savings rate for non-oil exporting countries in Africa barely reached 15 per cent throughout 1980-84. That's simply not high enough to encourage growth. The question of export earnings, debt and capital inflows plays an important part in determining the resources available for investment, as well as being an integral part of the international economic environment. Somehow this environment must be improved in order to provide more opportunities for African development.

Since 1980, total official development assistance (ODA) flows to Africa — including the Organization for Petroleum-Exporting Countries — has reached over $10 billion per annum — and this during a time of recession for developed country economies. The ODA figure accounts for 48 per cent of total local investment in the non-oil exporting Sub-Sahara African countries. That kind of extravagant dependence on development assistance makes no sense. Clearly more genuine local investment, and a redirection of resources towards agriculture, are needed. It calls for much closer co-ordination between African governments and donors.

(3) Policy formation should itself be treated as a key "resource". If the natural and financial wherewithal are not used effectively, Africa won't turn the corner from crisis management to long-term growth and development. Accordingly, it is imperative that domestic economic policies facilitate necessary adjustment, and that sectoral policies encourage increased investment and production through pricing arrangements, land use, agricultural inputs, transportation and marketing.

(4) Co-ordination, too, can be thought of as a key "resource" without unduly stretching the meaning of the word. Co-ordination between donors, multilateral agencies and African governments can reduce duplication, avoid bottlenecks and enhance the use of funds. While African governments must take the lead role, it is the responsibility of all to ensure that co-ordination is raised to the level of holy economic writ.