

world. The generosity of these countries in providing refuge to their neighbours has been remarkable — and the world community must assist them in a similar spirit of co-operation and solidarity.

These refugee movements will continue to place great strains on the institution of asylum — and we will have to join hands to strengthen and adapt that institution to meet current realities.

The third great challenge is that of making newcomers feel welcome in our societies — the challenge of integration. This is a challenge that begins at home. It involves a mutual respect of values and traditions on the part of both newcomers and receiving states.

No country can meet all of these challenges alone. This is not a North-South or East-West problem. It is a global challenge — yet institutional and policy frameworks are light-years behind our current migration challenges.

We react to emergencies only — and then, often too late and defensively. I call on each of us to act now. We must make progress on migration issues if we are to put in place the foundation that will move us beyond the frustrations of the status quo.

Follow-up

This week, the eyes of the world are on Cairo. But what will happen when we go home? Will it be back to business as usual?

All of us know that we will be judged by our actions and our achievements, not by our noble words. I do recognize that each of us has national constraints which we must balance against the commitments made here.

Canada, for example, is in the midst of reviewing our foreign and migration policy. This has involved intensive consultation with our citizens. They are questioning whether we are wisely spending our development dollars. We are also asking the same questions to UN agencies and our NGO partners. Is our spending strategic? Are we truly doing all we can to address basic human needs?

Canadians tell us we should continue to put our foreign aid where it will do the most good — on basic human needs, like immunization, nutrition, primary health care, including family planning, and education, especially education for all our daughters. And this is what we will do.