

Mr. President:

I should like first of all to congratulate you on your election to presidency of the Assembly. The overwhelming support which you have received testifies to the high esteem in which you are held. The United Nations General Assembly is fortunate in having as its presiding officer a statesman of world stature and a political philosopher on international renown. As a member of Government of Canada, which has many close and friendly links with Italy, it gives me great pleasure to greet her distinguished representative at this time.

I wish also to welcome to our company the delegations of Gambia, the Maldives and Singapore. It is essential to the welfare and the future of this Organization that it should represent the peoples of the world wherever they have attained sovereign independence: the addition of these three new members marks a further step in achievement of its goal. Mr. President, we represent Governments pledged to the principles of the Charter; Governments capable of decisions and of actions which could, for the better, change the course of human history. As we start this 20th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, I propose to direct my attention to five of the major problems facing the world today: