



offered prospects for real progress. More recently, the focus of attention here on nuclear weapons has often been at the expense of interest in other problems of arms control — problems that might be easier to solve. Nuclear weapons issues dominate the resolutions of the First Committee, yet global levels of conventional arms are high and rising, and that is a problem which many member states could help resolve by their own action.

As a first step now, we should attach higher priority to the development of confidence-building measures, which are a prerequisite to any major arms limitation agreement. In Europe, where the confrontation between East and West is most direct, the Stockholm Conference has made a valuable contribution to increased security. In Central America, there appears to be a prospect of agreement because the countries involved have worked together in a spirit of cooperation and taken actions which contribute to mutual confidence. These examples differ in form, but demonstrate that small, steady, practical steps can create the confidence that leads to progress. We should increase our efforts to promote such cooperation at the regional level.

Canada is strongly committed to both development and disarmament as fundamental policy objectives. In allocating resources at home, the Canadian Government seeks to achieve an equitable balance between a healthy economy driven by a vigorous private sector, and the fulfilment of basic human needs for all. Programmes such as universal subsidized medical care, child support and unemployment insurance are examples of solidly established Canadian benefits.

Canadians have, by tradition, a strong sense of obligation to help improve economic and social conditions in less fortunate parts of the world. From a modest contribution to the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme in 1949, Canada's development assistance programmes have expanded to cover all continents and a broad range of international institutions. To date, Canada has provided a total of

\$24 billion in official development assistance. The major portion of that has been directed at the poorest countries and people.

The Canadian development assistance effort extends well beyond the provision of grants. Efforts to seek a more open trading environment and acceptable arrangements on international debt constitute an integral element of Canada's relations with the developing world. Finally, Canadians in the private sector, from individuals and non-profit organizations to businesses, all contribute in various ways to development in the Third World. Since 1980, Canada has disbursed more than \$100 million under its industrial cooperation programme which focuses on joint ventures in, and the transfer of technology to, the Third World, particularly its private sector.

The control and reduction of armaments — both conventional and nuclear weapons — constitute a major Canadian foreign policy objective. We participate in all multilateral forums where arms control issues are considered and engage in a wide range of bilateral consultations and discussions. We have established specific priorities in the pursuit of this important goal. A major priority is the development of confidence-building measures such as the improvement of the technology and methodology of verification of arms limitations or reductions.

Mr. President, I strongly urge my fellow delegations at this conference to work towards the adoption of a consensus document. We agree on the goals, though not yet on the means. To dwell on our differences is to doom this conference. The four preparatory meetings — particularly the 19 elements and 10-point action programme agreed to at the third preparatory meeting — show that a fair and reasonable balance of views can be reached. To compromise on details is to protect the principle that more money must be spent on development, less on arms.

We need the commitment of *all* states if we are to make progress. We should examine the potential developmental benefits of disarmament measures.

These can include redirecting spending to social purposes; reducing public debts; stimulating economic growth, trade and private investment; and increasing official development assistance.

We should emphasize the importance of cooperation at the regional level, and the necessity of supporting existing global and regional institutions which promote cooperation. The conference document should support current arms control and disarmament negotiations, and acknowledge the necessity of confidence-building measures in that context.

Finally, the protection of individual rights and freedoms is so basic to both disarmament and development that it is often overlooked. The individual has a key role to play in these processes, but must be provided freedom and opportunity to become involved. In this context, I welcome the attendance of so many non-governmental observers here. My delegation will follow closely their contributions to the conference.

...If we are to succeed, the United Nations must deal effectively with the distortions that scar human life on this planet, distortions that mean that one person in six lives in abject poverty, while arms expenditures rise.

This contrast is highlighted frequently by respected studies such as those on world military and social expenditures produced by Ruth Leger Sivard and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, among others. It is highlighted even more starkly by the poverty and suffering I have encountered during visits to development projects in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

One useful purpose of this conference could be to return the global spotlight to the costs of the continuing arms race. But spotlights aren't enough. We need practical solutions to enable us to devote fewer resources to weapons and more to development. Security in the interdependent world of today demands both disarmament and development."