

I believe it crucial, therefore, that we take the decision to act constructively now at this Fifteenth Governing Council and concentrate on the scope and content of the 1992 conference. The Government of Canada, among others, will work to achieve this goal.

Management of the environment is inevitably management of the future. Enlightened leadership on these major issues will stimulate our creativity and galvanize our efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Environment is our destiny. What is needed is a new environmental ethic. We need to value our environment as we value life itself. The essence of the new environmental ethic does not lie in condemning development and technology, but in recognizing the need to balance innovation with wisdom. It must allow for sensitivity to national aspirations and be based on sound environmental management policies as well as profitability. We must respect the sovereignty of nations but we must learn to think of the environment as the common heritage of mankind. Growth is good if it works in harmony with nature's laws.

Let us join together in creating an environmental ethic we all can live with, and which will contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.