

We have therefore asked the United Nations Development Program to help us to develop the details of such a facility for Africa. My government is pleased with the response we have received from Mr. William Draper, the UNDP's new Administrator. He has assured us of his support to set up a working group to elaborate this concept. We are grateful for his support.

Canada is prepared to contribute \$20 million over five years to such a new mechanism once it has been created. We hope that other governments will want to take part, either by contributing financially or by other means. A number of developing countries have remarkable experience in food production and social forestry. I trust they will want to share their expertise and their resources with those in need in Africa.

We see this initiative as an act of faith in Africa's greatest wealth: its population, its small producers, and its men and women farmers.

There is not a crisis that does not hold promise. We will bear witness to this in this Assembly through our innovative and common action. This is my firm belief, and that of all of Canada. This is why as Minister for External Relations and on behalf of my government, I promise to do my utmost, looking ahead to what Africa can be in the year 2000, the Africa in which you and I believe.

Thank you.