

been forthcoming, nevertheless the Somali government has had to advance substantial resources out of its own food stocks to cover the deficit. For Somalia, one of the world's 25 poorest countries, this has meant an expenditure of more than \$40 millions in food aid -- a siphoning off of scarce capital and manpower resources which, in other circumstances would have been allocated to development.

In conclusion, I want to say something about the role we can play as parliamentarians in pressing for recognition of these pressing realities in our world today. The problems of disarmament have been with us for several decades; the shape of the new economic order has emerged more recently. But recognition of our difficulties has not necessarily brought us closer to resolving them. And for many, this failure brings the risk of discouragement, despair and cynicism. In the final analysis, that may be the greatest impediment to breaking down the barriers to effective action.

As legislators, we can play a catalytic role in persisting in our quest for a more just and secure world. As politicians, too, we can provide a much-needed leadership in sensitizing the people we represent to the need for perseverance in changing the old patterns, in building new perceptions of humanity in an interdependent world. We must reject the notion that it is naive to pursue disarmament in a world whose existence is threatened by the armaments of