

To that end, I want to talk about some of the things that are on the immediate agenda now.

We are working hard with Sweden, a country that has credentials and a standing internationally similar to our own, to try to achieve a consensus resolution in the UN General Assembly to convene, in 1992, a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

We have announced the establishment in Canada of a National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. A round table that brings together in one place, at one table, people who come from different sectors, to discuss the common problem of the interlinkage of environmental and economic questions. We think that will be important in Canada, but we are also aware that things that work in Canada can sometimes be adopted elsewhere. We think that this concept of the Round Table can become a model that will be helpful elsewhere in taking advantage of precisely the kind of developments that have been noted earlier, and precisely the fact that the question of action on the environment, of identifying the details where we can make some solid progress, is becoming a higher priority on a variety of levels.

We are hosting in Canada, in Ottawa in February, a workshop of legal and other experts to develop a framework umbrella convention for the protection of the atmosphere. Our hope is that we can agree on such a convention by 1992.

There are a range of other questions now actively, not simply on the agenda of Departments of the Environment, off on the edge of government, or off on the agenda of organizations that only meet three times since 1907 in national convocation, but at the heart of national governments and are increasingly becoming the heart of international deliberation whether they are the Economic Summit or the General Assembly discussions of the United Nations.

We have an opportunity to put to work the skills that Canada has developed internationally and the commitments that Canadians feel about the environment to make some solid and real progress in this field, as we have been able to do in other fields at other times in the history of this country and this world. That is very much a commitment of mine. I know it is of yours and that is the real reason why I wanted to take the opportunity to be with you today.

Your organization and our Government have a great deal of work to do together. If we are skillful and marry our experience and our commitment, it is work to which the world will pay increasing attention to the benefit of us all in the future.

Thank you.