

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past few years, a wealth of studies and reports on the global situation has been produced and to this treasury is now added, "Our Common Future", the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Report). Canada has hailed this report as "a landmark event". Though dealing primarily with environmental questions, the Commissioners also turned their attention to peace and security issues related to development and the environment. They urged governments to consider that a more satisfactory basis for managing the interrelationship between security and sustainable development is to broaden our vision. Conflicts may arise not only because of political and military threats to national sovereignty but also from environmental degradation and the pre-emption of development options. The Commission added:

"Nations must turn away from the destructive logic of an 'arms culture' and focus instead on their common future."

This is a renewed challenge to all of us who work in the disarmament field. Let us move forward at UNDC 87 in that spirit, knowing that our work here in its painstaking detail can contribute to our common future.