

are deeply aware that measures of this kind are but the first steps on a long road. This conference is a further step down that road to improving the economic well-being of the developing world. I think this conference must concentrate on the basic long-term priorities -- the increase in food production, the improvement of nutrition, and the advance of rural development. This conference is concerned with efforts to improve the lives of the rural poor who represent some 40 per cent of the total population of developing countries -- about 750 million persons. Canadian efforts will concentrate on increasing the productivity of rural people by enhancing the means of production at their disposal.

To help meet demands of this magnitude we have been engaged in Canada in developing a new broad strategy for Canadian development assistance, which is now in its final stages. It is intended to provide, among other things, new guidelines that should result in a greater capacity to respond to the changing priorities of developing countries.

In addition, other policies of government that affect Canada's relations with developing countries are also being re-examined with a view to ensuring a consistent approach to the development of a stable and equitable world economic environment.

Within the broad dimensions of this strategy, we have been reassessing our development-assistance programs in order to enlarge them and make them more effective in the renewable-resources sector. Through our bilateral and multilateral aid programs, we have been involved in a wide range of activities in this sector -- for example, the provision of fertilizer, research in dryland farming, water-resource evaluation, the development of wheat farming and beef and dairy projects, and the development of storage and bulk-handling facilities. We can also extend our activities in fisheries and forestry.

In agriculture, Canada is strong in the production of cereals such as wheat, oats, rye, barley and maize, and in oil-seed crops such as rapeseed, sunflower seeds and soy-beans, as well as starch crops like potatoes. We have a strong technology in dryland agriculture. Most of our cereal crops are grown in areas with under 20 inches of annual rainfall. In other agricultural technologies, we are good in the soil sciences, animal-breeding, animal nutrition, and crop storage and processing. We are using these strengths as a back-up for our international development work. There are many projects and programs drawing upon our expertise in these areas. Here are just a few examples: