

a document. When I spoke to this Assembly three weeks ago, I did not specifically address the question of aid volume. However, under the positive influence of this Special Session, we have intensified our examination of the issue in Canada and I am now in a position to make the following statement.

As a result of Cabinet deliberations in recent days, the Government of Canada has decided to reverse the trend of the last few years under which Canadian official development assistance was declining as a proportion of our GNP. We shall now move upwards once again and our ODA will reach a level of 0.5 percent of GNP by the middle of the decade. Our intention thereafter is to accept the need to reach an ODA level of 0.7 percent of GNP by the end of the decade and we shall employ all our best efforts to reach this objective. With these comments in mind, I wish to state that Canada is prepared to support paragraph 23 in the International Development Strategy concerning the ODA target for developed countries.

Mr. President, let me, in conclusion, express my thanks to you for your guidance at this Session, and to the Secretary-General for the stimulating ideas he put forward at the Economic and Social Council, and which are to be considered at the 35th Session of the General Assembly. And, finally, may I thank all Delegations for the efforts they have made over recent weeks to point us in the direction of a better world. Let us use these final hours to pledge ourselves to make ever greater efforts in the future.

Thank you.