

Mr. President:

We live in a shrinking global community where our interests are increasingly interwoven and our hopes for the future more and more dependent on one another. For this reason, Canada has from the outset welcomed the idea of an ambitious Agenda for Development. We agree with the Secretary-General that development is the "most pressing challenge of our time." We need a fresh framework for international co-operation for economic and social development, one that puts aside past rivalries and builds on shared values. If we are to be successful in forging this new vision, one of those shared values must be respect for human rights.

Development Vision and Framework for Co-operation

We can support much of the two parts of the Agenda presented by the Secretary-General. We agree that peace, the economy, social justice, environmental protection and democracy constitute central pillars of development. Solid building blocks for this new view of development are emerging from a series of important global conferences. The vision is a human-centred one, which sees development as being about the sustainable improvement of human well-being through the removal of hunger, disease, and ignorance, and through the productive participation in society by all.

On the threshold of the 21st century, we have come to understand that social and economic development are two sides of the same coin, that our real purpose is not simply economic growth, but human well-being. The United Nations has a particular role to play in fostering the integration of social and economic considerations, just as it does in underscoring the interconnection between development and peace.

The eradication of mass poverty must be a central goal of a renewed framework for international co-operation. As suggested by the Secretary-General, this framework would recognize the centrality of appropriate national policies to foster development. These include respect for human rights, systems of democratic and accountable governance, the full participation of women, and an enabling environment for civil society and the private sector. I refer, not only to values, but even more to the process. We therefore welcome the recognition within the UN not only of the vital role of civil society, but also of the importance of engaging it in the formulation of new policies.

A supportive international environment is clearly also required. It must pay particular attention to the needs of the poorest, while also recognizing the diversity among developing countries. An open and rules-based trading system is one of the key features of a supportive international environment. This is why we firmly believe in the need for the full and effective implementation of the agreements reached through the Uruguay Round. This is the