

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker  
Permanent Representative of Canada  
to the Second Committee of  
the 55th General Assembly  
New York, October 19, 2000

Monsieur le Président,

Le Sommet de la Terre de 2002 sera un point tournant pour le développement durable.

L'ordre du jour du sommet devrait être clair, axé sur l'action et l'avenir, et porter essentiellement sur des questions organisationnelles, stratégiques et de politiques de nature transversale.

Le but devrait être d'engager les dirigeants envers une vision commune de l'avenir.

Canada would like to see leaders consider issues such as global governance and sustainable development; poverty and sustainable development; financial resources, including trade and investment; and capacity building and international cooperation.

The issues and concerns of developing countries will be high on the agenda.

Canada strongly believes that the Summit should take place in a developing country.

Canada applauds South Africa and Indonesia for their kind offers to host this important event.

We urge an early decision on the timing and location of the Summit, so that the preparation can begin in earnest.

It is important to bear in mind the distinction between the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Summit itself.

CSD 10 presents an opportunity to carry out a comprehensive review of Agenda 21, a review to which Canada will contribute.

It should result in a fair and balanced assessment of progress and of challenges not met.

CSD 10 should not seek to renegotiate Agenda 21, which in our view remains a valid and useful guide for action.

Rather, the review of progress should inform leaders' discussions at the Summit, and provide the impetus for action into the future.

Preparatory work for both CSD-10 and Earth Summit 2002 needs to be comprehensive and broadly inclusive.

We should build on the modalities of participation by stakeholders that have been developed successfully in the CSD and in national processes since 1992.

Capturing the imagination of youth will be particularly important.

The preparatory process for Earth Summit 2002 will be the key to its success.

This process should provide an opportunity for due consideration of our successes as well as the implementation gaps which remain.

Canada supports the incorporation of Earth Summit preparations into the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

It will be important to draw in other organizations and agencies, such as UNEP, UNDP and the international financial institutions as preparatory work moves forward.

Le Canada tient à féliciter le Secrétariat et les commissions régionales d'avoir enclenché l'organisation des réunions régionales.

Nous avons hâte de prendre part à des discussions qui, nous en sommes certains, seront intéressantes et constructives.

Nous sommes encouragés par le fait qu'un large éventail de ministres et de fonctionnaires participeront à de telles discussions dans le cadre d'autres forums.

Le Sommet de la Terre de 2002 constitue une précieuse occasion d'avancer résolument sur la voie du développement durable au plan mondial.

Il nous incombe de tirer profit de cette occasion et de concrétiser la vision d'un monde sain, sûr et prospère.