

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2891
FolderID:

Folder Title:
UNCED [United Nations Conference on Environment and Development] Group File II

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	5	11	1

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 23, 1992

TO: See distribution (Greenies -- you know who you are...)

FROM: Katie

SUBJECT: IN-DEPTH UNCED BRIEFING

I have asked a small group of enviros who have been very much involved in the UNCED negotiations to come up and brief a small group of staff who probably have not been as involved as they should and are worried.

The idea is to get a DETAILED understanding of what the most important issues are. My sense is that, while we may know that targets and timetables are the big question with regard to climate change, we may not be as aware of the main issues involved in some of the other topics under discussion such as biodiversity and forests.

Fran Spivey Weber at Audubon will be pulling the enviros together and we will meet next Wednesday, January 29 at 4:00. I will get back to all of you when I am sure of a room number.

My hope is that, once we all have a feel for what the issues are, we will be able to get our bosses to the floor for regular statements on this in order to generate increased awareness. Time is getting really short and it seems like there's a hellava lot to do.....

Hope you can come.

Distribution:

- o ~~Jim Guthrie~~ ✓
- o ~~John Giglio~~ ✓
- o ~~Sandy Thomas~~ ✓
- o ~~Mimi Brody~~ ✓
- o ~~Graham Chisholm~~ ✓
- o ~~Sally Yozell~~ ✓ 48525
- o ~~Ric Beddoin~~ ✓
- o ~~Tom Buchman~~ ✓
- o ~~Barbara Cairns~~ ✓ 30
- o ~~Joyce Retschaffen~~ ✓
- o ~~Kate Kimball~~ ✓ 30
- o ~~Bob Davison~~ ✓
- o ~~Ken Rynn~~ ✓ 46519

SA

Spivey Weber
547-9007
at 547-9022
FYE
Thank

A/so

A/so - Jim
Murtough - 212-
956-
3531

see me re: this
one, fairly
want to
include
note.

- o Kim Tilley
- o Norm Vig
- o Karl Gaywell
- o David Harwood

[Handwritten scribbles]

file - UNCED Working Group -

Dear Senator Dole:

I would like to bring to your attention the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 which will be commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. The United States and the international community are placing considerable emphasis on this conference for the future direction of international environment.

We are aware of the strong congressional interest in attending the Rio meeting and would like to organize a special UNCED congressional observer group to be part of the U.S. delegation. The Department proposes a bi-partisan group of Members interested in the UNCED issues that the Leadership selects. The following committees have had jurisdictional interest in this issue during the past few years: Agriculture, Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works. The Administration would like to insure Congressional interest in this important meeting and request the leadership in the House to provide a list of 6 members (3 Democrats, 3 Republicans) to serve as observers. We are making the same request of the Senate leadership. We hope the Congressional group would receive funding via Congressional authorization.

There is a month-long Preparatory Meeting for UNCED in New York beginning March 3. It would be helpful if the U.S. head of delegation, Mr. Curtis Bohlen, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, could meet with this special observer group in January to go over the preparations for the New York meeting and the Rio meeting.

The Honorable
Bob Dole,
United States Senate.

01-22-92 10:18AM FROM USS MALCOLM WALLOP TO 40580

P003/003

X98-X

12-13-91 11:49AM P003 #13

2026470217

Thank you for your assistance with this request. If you need more information regarding UNCED or this observer group, please contact Scott Styles of my staff at 647-8722.

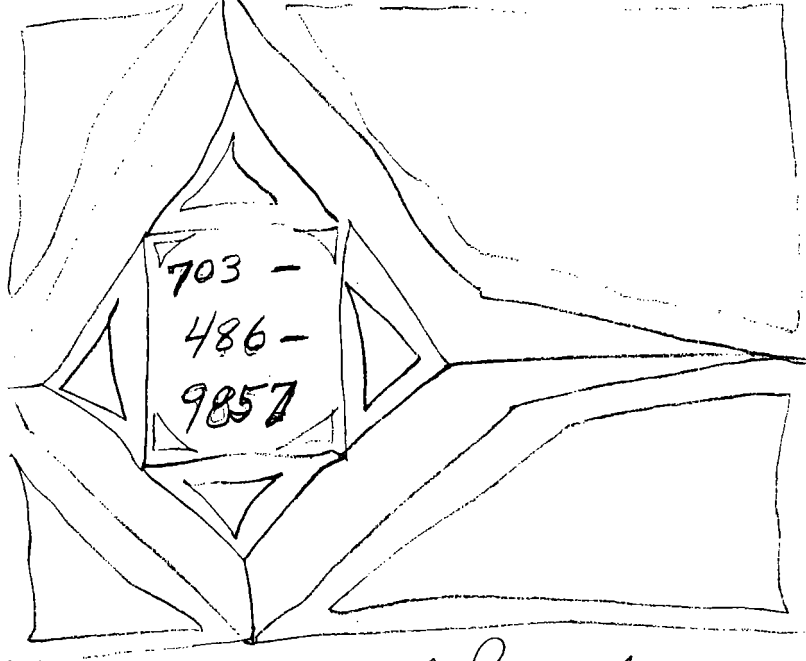
Sincerely,

Janet G. Mullins
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

0002

2026470217

12/13/91 12:51



Send Byrd
W3J
story



to: al
from: katie
re: meeting with mitchell on unced observer group

roy feels that you need to speak to mitchell personally about this. a vote on an education amend is supposed to happen today, so it is likely you will have the opportunity to speak to mitchell. however, greg says that if you do see mitchell, you have a higher priority today -- that is, to ask for no voted after 4:30 so that you don't miss vote in going to new york. in the event that there is no problem on lthat front and the vote happens prior to 4:30 -- here's some bkgrd for you to approach mitchell on the unced thang---

state department wrote to house and senate leadership asking that an official bipartisan delegation be appointed from each side (6 house members; 6 senate) to be part of official delegation. no decision has been made on lthis yet, but it is on a short fuse -- i think a decision could be made this week or early next.

you should know that wallop has contacted mitchell and dole and suggested that the mandate of the climate observers group should be expanded to fulfill this function. you should echo that sentiment. as chair of that group, you certainly should be part (chair) the unced group especially in light of the fact that the climate treaty is probably the most important item on the unced agenda.

hilley knew nothing about this when roy talked to him, but indicated that, of course, you would be a natural for it....

attached is copy of state department letter on this.

Martin Nader
618534-0828

~~John~~
Indiana
617-495-5922

~~James~~
Saller
42942

Martha
232-7733

~~John~~
54311
1-201-884-7582
Bob Kasper

Script from of Ben
Univ Cal SD
La Jolla
92093-0220

MAKE UNDER
FILE

call
fully

44329

Bob WICKLUND

Constitution Name Research Club

B (203) 965 - 3990

FAX " 965 - 3911

could
with request
Edgema
for 265-4443.

Jim Regan 65-574-0800

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

- Gareth Porter
 - Don Edwards
 - Church (Religious)
 - Development
 - UN Ass'n.
- 50157 Ann Jones.
Regan y color
health care / jobs
this is mine
- Charles J. Jorgensen
US News
95-2334
ABC - Dave Kohn.

15b. over 34%
will be
12b. will do -- but ask us
my prep. com. -> will come
to rescue.

High level
March 6-7
membership

on JMD 9
US here
sponsoring
© Smithsonian

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 23, 1992

TO: See distribution (Greenies -- you know who you are...)

FROM: Katie

SUBJECT: IN-DEPTH UNCED BRIEFING

I have asked a small group of enviros who have been very much involved in the UNCED negotiations to come up and brief a small group of staff who probably have not been as involved as they should and are worried.

The idea is to get a DETAILED understanding of what the most important issues are. My sense is that, while we may know that targets and timetables are the big question with regard to climate change, we may not be as aware of the main issues involved in some of the other topics under discussion such as biodiversity and forests.

Fran Spivey Weber at Audubon will be pulling the enviros together and we will meet next Wednesday, January 29 at 4:00. I will get back to all of you when I am sure of a room number.

My hope is that, once we all have a feel for what the issues are, we will be able to get our bosses to the floor for regular statements on this in order to generate increased awareness. Time is getting really short and it seems like there's a hellava lot to do.....

Hope you can come.

Distribution:

FAX #
o Jim Guthrie - 0562
o John Giglio - 2237
o Sandy Thomas - 9369
322 o Mimi Brody - 2417-3
o Graham Chisholm - 7645
o Sally Yozell - 8525
o Ric Erdheim - 9707
o Tom Tuchman - 2001
o Steve Polansky - 5011

o Barbara Cairns - 9750
o Joyce Retschaffen
o Kate Kimbally - 2322
o Bob Davison
o Ken Rynn - 6519
o Kim Tilley - 0868
~~o Norm Vio~~
o Karl Gaywell - 8438
o David Harwood - 1933

8330

* In send Resolutions to ~~John Zbrsky~~ John Zbrsky → Sen. Tefferts.
6550 Jeff Burnham → Sen. Lugar.
5167 Steve Shimborg → Sen. Chafee
1083 Preston Lee → Dr. DA.

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO _____

FROM _____

PAGES including cover _____

SUBJECT _____

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

Senate Joint Resolution

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should lead the United States delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development.

In the Senate of the United States

January 28, 1992

Mr. Gore introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to

Joint Resolution

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should travel to Brazil to lead the United States delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which will be held in June, 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Whereas the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development presents an unique opportunity for community of nations to discuss options to arrest poverty and environmental destruction as we enter the 21st century;

Whereas, the United Nations has determined that the conference will be a meeting at the head of State and Governmental level: Now, therefore be it;

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should --

(1) attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June, 1992, as the leader of the United States delegation.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

January 27, 1992

To: Environmental LA's
From: Katie McGinty
Re: UNCED Resolution

Senator Gore will introduce this Resolution urging the President to lead the US delegation to the UNCED conference in June. Congressman Porter will introduce the companion on the House side.

Currently, heads of State from all of the other G7 countries have announced their intention to lead their respective delegations to the Conference. While we would not expect that President Bush could make a firm commitment to attend the Conference personally at this time, an announcement of his intention to try to do so would greatly elevate the issue.

If you would like to cosponsor the resolution or if you have any questions about it please give me a call. Thanks!

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO R. ERDHEIM

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO M. Brady

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

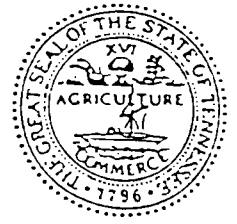
TO S. Polansky

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO K KimBALL

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO B. DAVISON

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO K. Rynn

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

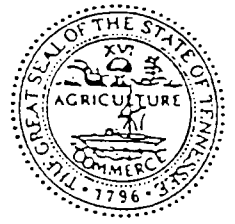
TO K. Graywell

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO D. HARWOOD

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO J. Burnam

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO J. SHIMBERG

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO J. Tuckman

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO B. Cairns

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO J. RETSCHAFER

FROM T. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO K. TILLEY

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO J. ZIRSCHKY

FROM J. Wosko

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

NEWS FROM



U.S. Senator Al Gore

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4944

DATE _____

TO P. LEE

FROM J. WOSKO

PAGES including cover 3

SUBJECT _____

National Wildlife Federation

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE EARTH SUMMIT

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCED



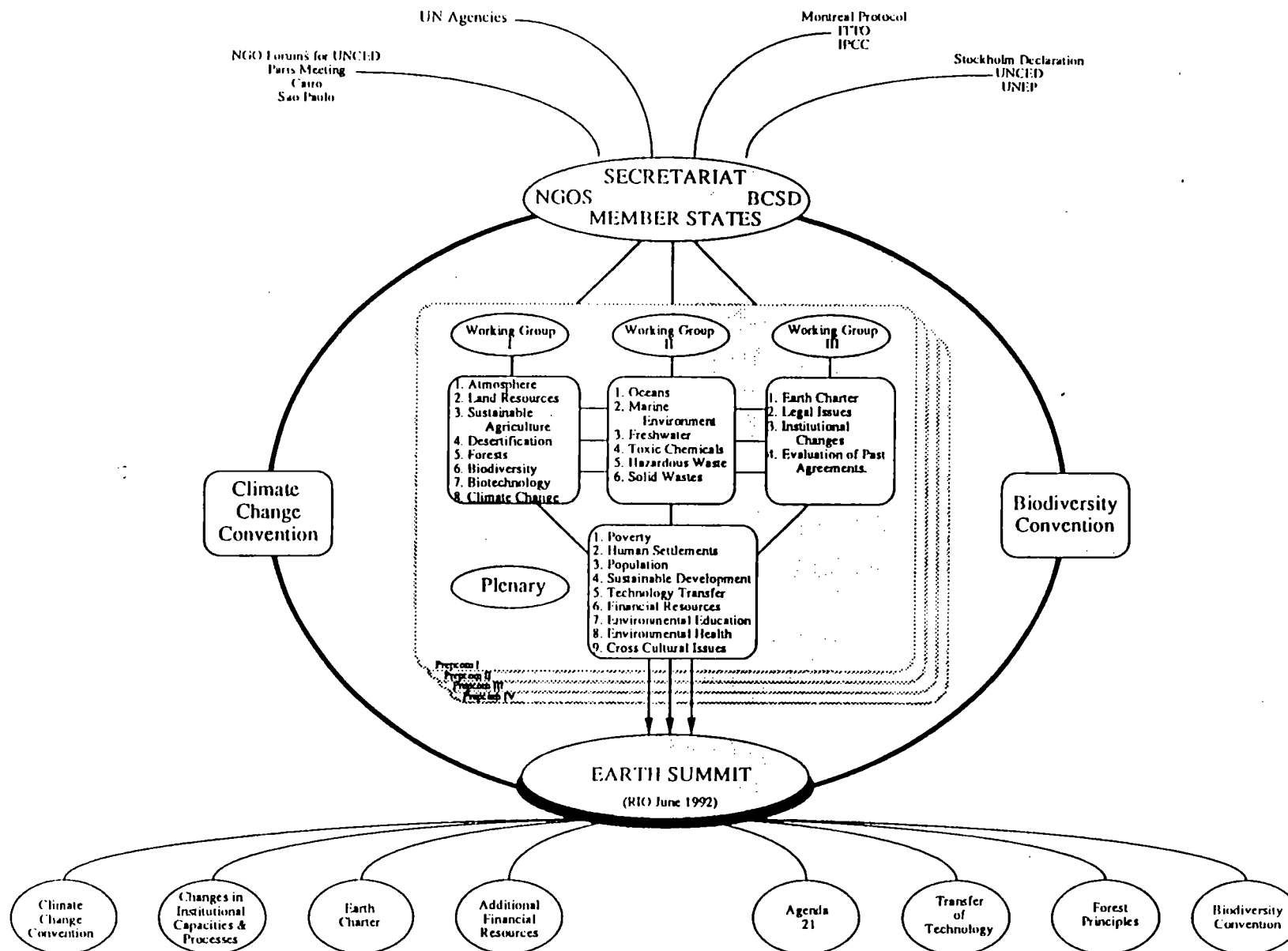
IN OUR HANDS

International Affairs Department

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

UNCED Flow Chart.....	cover
Introduction/What is a PrepCom?.....	01
"Formals" v. "Informals" v. "Informal-Informals".....	02
Working Group I.....	03
Atmosphere.....	03
Integrated Land Resources and Sustainable Agriculture.....	04
Desertification.....	04
Forests.....	05
Biodiversity and Biotechnology.....	06
Working Group II.....	07
Oceans.....	07
Waste.....	07
Fresh Water.....	07
Working Group III.....	08
Institutional Reform.....	08
The Earth Charter/Declaration of Principles.....	09
Plenary - Cross Cutting Issues.....	09
Agenda 21.....	10
Financial Resources.....	10
Human Settlements.....	11
Population.....	11
Poverty.....	11
Transfer of Technology.....	12
Sustainability, Economy, Integrated Economic-Environmental National Accounting.....	12
PrepCom IV.....	12
Toward New York.....	13
Parallel Negotiations.....	14
Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	14
Biodiversity Convention.....	14
Highlights of the UN General Assembly meeting on UNCED.....	15
The Business Charter.....	16
NGO Participation and Dynamics.....	17
NGOs' Preparations.....	17
NGOs' Accreditation.....	18
Annex 1.....The US Citizens Network "Earth Charter"	
Annex 2.....How to Obtain Information about UNCED	

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE on ENVIRONMENT and DEVELOPMENT (UNCED) 1992



KEY

UNEP - UN Environmental Program	ITTO - International Tropical Timber Organization
UNDP - UN Developmental Program	NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations
IPCC - Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change	BCSD - Business Council for Sustainable Development

prepared by Angela O. Harkavy - 10/27/91

National Wildlife Federation

The Results of PrepCom III THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NEGOTIATING SESSION FOR UNCED



International Affairs Department
November 1991

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will take place in June 1992, in Brazil. It will be the largest United Nations gathering ever held, when perhaps most of the 160 Heads of State or Heads of Government will meet in Rio de Janeiro.

Recognizing a crisis of unprecedented proportion endangering the future of life on earth, UNCED was conceived as "a means of mobilizing the political will of nations to take a number of concrete actions to redress the world's environmental and economic imbalances," said Maurice Strong, the secretary general of the Conference.

"A means of mobilizing the political will of nations to take a number of concrete actions to redress the world's environmental and economic imbalances".

It is meant to deal with a rising tide of toxic substances; contamination of fresh water, oceans, and atmosphere; desertification and loss of soil and fresh water, forest cover and important species of plant and animal life; disturbing increases in human numbers and polluting activities

since the industrial revolution, especially in recent decades. It must also attack poverty, indebtedness, trade and aid, and induce all nations to embrace the concept of "sustainable living." No international conference has ever been so ambitious, and as a consequence most negotiators are simply overwhelmed by the number and the interrelationship of the issues.

In addition to UNCED itself, intergovernmental parallel negotiations were set for issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity. The track dealing with Climate Change is working to deter the projected rapid rise in global temperatures and sea levels, possibly greater in the next century than in the 10,000 years since the last ice age.

What is special about UNCED, said some governments at the 46th session of the General Assembly of the UN, is that it is a call to governments, business, peoples and individuals to "begin to exercise responsibility for the planet as a whole." It is the first time that the world problems are examined in an integral manner, and the first time that there is such a coordination among the many UN organizations.

It is a call to governments, business, peoples and individuals to begin to exercise responsibility for the planet as a whole.

WHAT IS A PREPCOM?

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings are a series of four negotiating sessions that precede the actual UNCED conference itself; the latter is essentially a signing ceremony. So, the PrepComs are where almost all the action is. The first one, held

The PrepComs are where almost all the action is.

in Nairobi in 1990, set the agenda and negotiating procedures. For example, it was decided there to divide most issues into separate Working Groups (analogous to Congressional committees) for detailed discussions. Thus forests and transboundary air pollution are dealt with in Working Group I, toxic wastes and oceans, in Working Group II, the Earth Charter and new institutions, in Working Group III.

Other issues are called "cross-cutting," meaning they affect all of the specific subjects. Cross-cutting issues include poverty, financial resources, population and transfer of technology, and they are dealt with in the Plenary (analogous to the House or Senate floor).

The PrepComs work through the three Working Groups, and the Informal and Informal-
Informal meetings, building discussions on the background papers and draft agreements produced by the Secretariat.

PrepCom II was held in Geneva in March, 1991, and was devoted to the review of detailed factual reports on each issue prepared by the Secretariat (the staff of the Conference). Although the reports were pretty good, most countries criticized them and asked for rewrites. PrepCom III marked the beginning of negotiations; but unfortunately, very little progress was made.

"Formals" v. "Informals" v. "Informal-Informals"

Believe it or not, the above terms were the subject of many battles. The reasons are:

1. According to the U.N. General Assembly resolution establishing UNCED, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) are only allowed to take part in the formal meetings of the Conference in its Plenary and Working Groups meetings. The informal meetings are like congressional committee meetings, and informal-informals are like subcommittees, where all the real work gets done, so NGO access to them is crucial. But so far, NGO access has been left up to each Working Group chair. (The formal and informal sessions have

The informal-informals are where down-and-dirty name calling takes place, there is no tape recording or translation, and the governments don't want spectators.

simultaneous translation into the seven U.N. languages, and are held in the big assembly rooms. The only difference is that an informal has its own chair person, and it can be called to deal with just one issue for an extended period. (i.e., an evening devoted just to forests.)

2. The informal-informal is where down-and-dirty name calling takes place, there is no tape recording or translation, and the governments don't want spectators. NGOs could rarely gain admittance to these; however, sometimes NGOs gained access to informals; and they were always allowed into the formals, where NGOs could actually make statements, not just observe.

3. The catch is that in New York, at the fourth PrepCom next March, where most of the negotiating will be done, 90% of the sessions will be either informal or informal-informal. So unless this issue is resolved in NGOs' favor, there will be much less chance to affect the March PrepCom than there was in Geneva.

Country delegations in Geneva varied in size from 1 to 45 members. Small delegations did not have any hope of participating fully in the negotiations, since several formal or informal sessions would often be underway at the same time. Ironically, the U.S., which had the largest and best-prepared delegation, was the most difficult of all the players.

The U.S., which had the largest and best prepared delegation, was also the most difficult of all the players.

Singled out as an impediment to agreements on a variety of major issues -- such as hazardous waste exports, climate change, and beefed-up financial assistance to the Third World -- the U.S. positions will make or break UNCED's accomplishments. This will all come to a head in New York in March during PrepCom IV, which is considered the crucial meeting for UNCED's destiny.

The tensions between northern and southern economic agendas; between environmental and development issues; and among governments, the UNCED Secretariat, and the NGOs, in the context of overburdened delegates, a too-complex agenda, and the sense of time running out, tell the story of PrepCom III.

WORKING GROUP I

Working Group I focussed on several areas related to atmosphere: transboundary air pollution, energy efficiency, environmentally sound transportation systems, and promoting sustainable energy, consumption patterns and lifestyles.

Atmosphere

Since the opening sessions of this Working Group the industrialized countries, especially the United States, came under attack by delegates from the South for being the biggest cause of the greenhouse effect.

Speaking for the Group of 77, Edward Kufour, Ghana's Ambassador challenged the developed countries to make genuine commitments and provide resources to developing countries to meet the challenges of the shift to sustainable development.

A proposal for an Action Program for Agenda 21 was introduced for discussion by the Secretariat. It contains eight major areas of action with regard to the protection of the atmosphere and related sectors - energy, transport and industry. The proposal is controversial, with some governments objecting to the discussion of consumption curbs and others to the limits on energy production. The document has brackets around several parts of the text which indicates that at least one government disagrees with the provisions.

The U.S. and several other delegations objected to the emphasis on energy (they wanted

The U.S. and several other delegations objected to the emphasis on energy. They wanted energy issues relegated to the separate and currently paralyzed negotiations on climate change.

energy issues relegated to the separate and currently paralyzed negotiations on climate change). They suggested that the Agenda 21 proposals related to energy potentially violated national sovereignty. According to the World Resources Institute the United States is responsible for 25 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, most of it related to its consumption of fossil fuels. The U.S. uses twice as much energy to produce a dollar's worth of goods and services as Japan uses.

Other delegations responded that energy use and production cause air pollution and other environmental problems (in addition to climate change), and that this was an appropriate topic for UNCED and Agenda 21.

The Dutch Delegate, Leon Mazairae, speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that industrialized countries should agree to protocols to limit greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, and measures to curb deforestation. NGOs, including NWF, CAPE'92 and Globe International, actively participated in this debate, also calling for full-cost accounting for all energy systems and underscoring the importance of renewable resources over fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Developing countries objected to the abbreviated discussion of development issues in this area.

The issues of transboundary air pollution

Issues of transboundary air pollution and ozone depletion were largely ignored.

and ozone depletion were largely ignored in the official meeting, even though some European countries and NGOs described transboundary air pollution as one of the most serious environmental

problems in Europe and North America, and there was tremendous public concern about ozone depletion, particularly in countries of the southern hemisphere. Governments generally acknowledged the need to improve research and cooperation on air pollution monitoring programs, sharing of information, and pollution abatement programs. More nations were urged to ratify the Montreal Protocol (on ozone depletion) and to comply with its financial commitments.

Delegates agreed that UNCED should be kept informed of the climate change negotiations being conducted by the separate international negotiating committee, but should not duplicate or

take over that debate. Informal hallway discussions suggested that industrialized countries have been impatiently waiting for U.S. cooperation on targets and timetables for the climate change convention.

India, the world's second most populous nation, has called for a drastic change in lifestyle in the industrialized countries to reduce threats to the Earth's environment, says IPS (Inter Press Service Coverage of PrepCom3). The Indian representative Chandrashekar Dasgupta proposed that the North apply the concept of an environmentally sustainable lifestyle by, for instance, using public transportation instead of cars. Several delegates, including some from the industrialized countries, supported the Indian stand.

Integrated Land Resources and Sustainable Agriculture

Several proposed options for Agenda 21 were drafted by the Secretariat of Working Group I, but major decisions were left for PrepCom IV. The Chairman was asked to prepare separate programs for planning and management of land resources for agriculture, genetic resources, integrated pest management and rural energy production. The Program of Action for Agenda 21 deals with protection and management of fragile ecosystems, integrated approach to planning and management of land resources, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and land conservation and rehabilitation. Surprisingly this document doesn't have many brackets.

A new item -- the world's mountains -- was introduced into the Agenda by Rudolf Hogger of the Swiss delegation, who is also chairman of the Nepal-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). He said that "mountains are a key element in the global environment and weather-making and further deterioration can have an impact on climate worldwide." About 20 percent of the Earth's land area is made up of mountains and they form a direct source of support for one-tenth of the world's population.

Experts said that sensitive mountain regions will be seriously affected by global warming, which in turn will have repercussions on plains downstream. A few degrees rise in average temperatures could melt Himalayan glaciers. It

would be hard to know at this point the extent of the impact of the melting of such masses of water, but it is not difficult to imagine that it will be a serious problem affecting millions of people living on and near mountains. A "Mountain Agenda 1992" is being prepared for the Earth Summit, and a United Nations University report was released in Geneva. The report highlighted the importance of the rich bio-diversity of mountain areas. One single mountain in the Malaysian state of Sabah, for instance, is estimated to have up to 4,500 species of plants, more than 25 percent of all the species found in the United States.

Desertification

Work on desertification suffered because translations of documents were not ready and insufficient time was devoted to the topic. After several African delegates complained that the background documents have not adequately addressed the problem, the chair promised to give it priority treatment at PrepCom IV.

The world's deserts are spreading and African Governments and environmentalists are saying "it is time to place the issue squarely back on the global agenda". It is said that an estimated 230 million people, many of them in Africa, are threatened by the effects of desertification - displacement, famine, and malnutrition. The proposed program areas for Agenda 21 to combat desertification were: development of research and knowledge, creation of monitoring systems, establishment of programs for integrated development in areas prone to desertification, design of plans to cope with environmental refugees, eradication of poverty, and development of comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes.

African states proposed the creation of a special desertification fund, which was opposed by the United States. The U.S. stressed the need to improve national economic and land management policies. Delegates did agree that desertification was both an environmental and develop-

African states proposed the creation of a special desertification fund, which was opposed by the United States.

mental issue in its own right, as well as part of the more general challenge of preserving and managing fragile ecosystems.

Forests

The loss of forests is one of the clearest examples of the scale and rapidity of human effects on the surface of the Earth. The Earth's forest cover has been reduced by one third from its original extent.

During the past four decades, the rate of deforestation has accelerated sharply, especially in developing countries, where about 60 percent of the remaining forests are found. Forty

years ago, Ethiopia had 30 percent forest cover; twelve years ago, that had fallen to 4 percent; today it may be 1 percent. Until this century, India's forests covered more than half the country. Today, they are down to 14 percent. In 1988 tropical forests were disappearing at a rate estimated conservatively at over 20 million hectares per year, about the size of the UK. In the northern hemisphere the boreal forests are stable in extent, but recently threatened with new development plans in Siberia. The temperate forests also are relatively stable, but the special stands of ancient forests of the northwest U.S. and Canada are being decimated.

During PrepCom II, delegates agreed (the U.S. being a notable exception) that there was not enough time to formulate a forest convention, and that an authoritative statement of forest principles should be drafted, instead. As in earlier talks, discussions during PrepCom III reflected the differing perspectives of developing and industrialized governments. Developing countries believe that industrialized countries do not understand the realities they face on forest issues, and that the root causes of deforestation are largely macroeconomic factors involving trade and debt. NGOs criticized the Secretariat's papers for failing to recognize both the underlying causes of deforestation and the need to preserve primary forests in all countries.

The root causes of deforestation are largely macroeconomic factors involving trade and debt.

Many countries submitted draft principles and the developing countries issued a joint statement of principles. Discussions were often intense, and informal sessions went on late into the night. NGOs participated in informal as well as formal sessions until the last week, when they were barred from the informal talks. Unfortunately, an Agenda 21 Action Program has not yet been prepared for forests.

Provisionally agreed-upon points in the current draft of the forest document include the following principles: the statement should cover all types of forests; the sustainable use by forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected; full participation by women should be promoted in all aspects of forest management; sustainable management of forest is recognized as a goal; forest management decisions should be based on full economic accounting of costs and benefits, including environmental ones. The basic disagreement

arises from a competition between two contrasting approaches to sovereignty. One model, according to Michael McCloskey, of the Sierra Club, is the "internationalist model", and the other the "nationalist model". The first one would follow guidelines based on the importance of forests to the whole world community. The second model implies an assumption that the international community can only make recommendations, not set standards, and the individual nations are the sole judge of what will be done. Funding and technology transfer were the other contentious issues.

Unfortunately, an Agenda 21 Action Program has not yet been prepared for forests.

The basic lines of disagreement resided on a competition between two models for the convention, or among past and future models of sovereignty.

Biodiversity and Biotechnology

Most of the discussions attempted to combine these two topics into one unwieldy subject. The reasons for this are basic issues of north-south equity. "We have the genes -- you have the money" are the elements of the equation on this negotiation from the southern perspective because: 1) conservation of biodiversity is critical to provide genetic material for biotechnology, and 2) developing countries want recognition of the value of, and fair payment for, providing the raw material, while industrialized countries want recognition of the value of, and payment for, the patented end-products. There is an enormous conflict over who has access to and/or ownership of genetic resources and, at the same time developing countries are seeking access to biotechnology know-how to do their own genetic engineering.

Some industrialized countries, maintaining that biological resources are a heritage of mankind (i.e., freely available to all), were accused by the developing countries of setting up double standards, since many of these same industrialized countries refused to support other initiatives that might threaten their national sovereignty.

Europeans called for the creation of sufficient protected areas to conserve the maximum possible number of species and ecosystems. Developing countries objected to the idea of a legally binding agreement on biodiversity conservation which they see as protecting the interests of the northern biotech industry. Brazil, Botswana, and Colombia, among others, stressed the need to consider the socio-economic ramifications of conserving biodiversity, since "we cannot continue to deal with these issues in isolation."

"We have the genes, you have the money."

Developing countries objected to the idea of a legally binding agreement on biodiversity conservation which they see as protecting the interests of the northern biotech industry.

A biodiversity decision was taken that affirms four program areas for Agenda 21. They are: provision of information on biodiversity; maximization and spreading of the benefits of biodiversity; improvement of the conservation of biological resources; and enhancement of the capacity to manage biodiversity.

On biotechnology, the U.S. sought to allay fears of the potential hazards of manipulated organisms escaping the lab, and the export of untested genetically-manipulated organisms to the South. European countries and NGOs urged the development and implementation of a bio-safety code of conduct and rules on testing safeguards, which the U.S. opposed.

The U.S. stated that the danger posed by genetically altered organisms has been exaggerated.

The U.S. stated that the danger posed by genetically altered organisms has been exaggerated, and complained that the Secretariat document on the subject demonstrated "an inappropriate and overly intense focus on risk" of the products of genetic engineering. The U.S. wants Intellectual Property Rights (i.e., patent rules) to be respected in any future instrument on biotechnology, to the dismay of the southern countries and NGOs who believe that existing international patent rules neglect the rights of local communities (especially indigenous tribes) to the genetic wealth they have helped preserve. It became clear that the concept of intellectual property rights must be redefined and regulated.

The U.S. refuses to agree to technology transfer at a below-market price because it would impose unduly onerous obligations on private companies; instead, they maintain, market forces should be allowed to prevail. The U.S. talked about "technology cooperation," instead of transfer, but it is not well defined yet.

The informal-informal (back room) consultations resulted in a redrafted Agenda 21 document for biodiversity and biotechnology. The revised drafts were adopted on the last days of PrepCom III. Consideration of these documents will be possible only at PrepCom IV. Also to be considered in March in New York is a proposal of a number of Latin American countries seeking help to increase their capability to exploit the

potential of biotechnology that could be generated from their own biological resources and traditional knowledge and practices.

* * *

WORKING GROUP II

Oceans

Discussions of proposed programs for Agenda 21 produced a long list with many brackets:

"Integrated management and [sustainable development] of coastal areas and [marine ecosystems] [exclusive economic zones]; [marine environmental protection] [marine pollution, prevention and control: land-based and sea-based activities]; marine living resources [sustainable utilization on the high seas and under national jurisdiction]; [management of high seas; living marine resources, sustainable use of living marine resources under national jurisdiction]; addressing critical uncertainties [for ocean management] and climate change; strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination; human resource development for ocean [and coastal management]; and means of implementation/resource requirements."

Slight progress was made during the last few days on the problem of land-based sources of marine pollution. The Plenary adopted a draft decision that calls for UNEP, in coordination with the UNCED Secretariat, to convene an intergovernmental meeting of experts to address this subject.

Freshwater

Many developing countries expressed their reservations with the Secretariat's documents from the beginning. They objected to the academic nature of the reports and the fact that none of them considered the effects of freshwater problems on local populations. The Action Program for Agenda 21 adopted by the Working Group calls for clarification of the linkages to

Canada stressed the importance of a conference on water, to be held in Dublin in January.

other environmental and developmental issues and declares as its major objective, "the maintenance of the hydrological, biological and chemical functions of ecosystems and to adapt human activities to the limits of nature's carrying capacity."

Major decisions on plans for assessment, action, implementation mechanisms, program targets, and costs were postponed to PrepCom IV. Canada stressed the importance of a conference on water, to be held in Dublin in January, and requested that the participants in that conference address appropriate Agenda 21 options for freshwater which could bring some substantive material for negotiations in New York.

Waste

The topic of waste is divided into four categories: (1) transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; (2) the management of radioactive waste; (3) environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals; and (4) solid wastes and sewage.

Informal consultations were held on the four substantive areas during the two weeks dedicated to this issue. NGOs were not permitted to attend these sessions and reporting was hard to come by. Several resolutions were formally "adopted" but the text had brackets all over it, meaning that the governments did not really agree to the provisions.

The major dispute involved a developing country proposal to ban the international movement of hazardous wastes. The U.S. was

The U.S. was the main opponent of a ban on waste trade, while the European Community supported it.

The U.S. was the main opponent of a ban on waste trade, while the European Community supported it. Several governments are prepared to consider alternative proposals, such as to set up an international body for risk assessment and management of chemicals.

Developing countries want more monitoring and disclosure of the character of the wastes being moved; research on the health effects in developing countries; an end to pressure on poor countries to accept dumping on their territory in exchange for financial aid; and the creation of a system of financial liability to ensure compensation

for countries damaged by the export of polluting substances. The U.S. resisted all attempts by developing and European countries to strengthen international safeguards. The U.S. maintains that transboundary movement and dumping is a matter between individual countries, subject only to bilateral agreement.

Several countries maintained that the most appropriate venue for the discussion of radioactive waste is the International Atomic Energy Agency; but Iceland urged UNCED to call for a ban on dumping of radioactive waste on land and sea. A six-nation confederation of Native Americans addressed the

grave consequences to indigenous people from their exposure to radioactive waste stored on their lands. The International Indigenous Commission described the practice by the U.S. government of encouraging indigenous people to accept nuclear waste on their land in return for monetary compensation.

On the issues of solid wastes and sewage, the Netherlands, supported by Canada and the European Community, proposed source separation of household wastes, developing markets for recyclables, and promoting the use of recyclable materials, particularly packaging. The UK called for the development of "Centers of Excellence" for training in waste management. Finally, all countries supported the proposal that by the year 2000 industrialized countries (and by the year 2020 developing countries) should implement programs to curb per capita waste flows to disposal sites.

The adopted Agenda 21 Action Program stated the overall objective: "within the framework of integrated life cycle management, prevent to the extent possible and minimize the generation of hazardous wastes". Ratification of the Basel and Bamako Conventions was stressed and the program areas were defined as follows: promote waste prevention through "cleaner production;" enhance knowledge and information on economics of prevention of hazardous wastes; promote institutional capacities in hazardous waste management;

The International Indigenous Commission described the practice by the U.S. government of encouraging indigenous people to accept nuclear waste on their land in return for monetary compensation.

strengthen international cooperation in management of transboundary movements of wastes, including monitoring. Education and public awareness, technology development and development of management tools were included in the program.

WORKING GROUP III

This Working Group is dealing with general principles, the Earth Charter, peaceful resolution of environmental disputes, and legal and institutional changes, especially within the UN. The NGOs are calling for sweeping changes, and the governments are taking a wait-and-see attitude. One area of agreement is to direct the World Bank and related bodies to

devote more of their resources to promoting environmentally sound development. CAPE'92, advocated creation of an enforcement mechanism for international agreements, an independent auditing body to monitor the impacts of UN institutions, and a guarantee of public participation in all international decision-making affecting environment and development.

Institutional Reform

With the new perception of the interconnection of the world's economy and the earth's ecology there are profound implications for the shape of national and international institutions of governance. Fundamental questions are raised about how economic and political decisions are made, and their implications for sustainability and the survival of life itself.

An overwhelming majority of delegations opposed the creation of new institutions and supported increased cooperation between existing ones. Consensus was achieved on the following points: reform of UN institutions is needed; proliferation of institutions at the global level should be avoided; existing international institutions should be adapted to the support of sustain-

able development; UNEP should be strengthened; capacity of institutions at the local and national levels, especially in developing countries should be enhanced; and institutions and organizations outside the UN system, including NGOs, have an important role to play in this process. Nevertheless, it is also clear that up to this point nobody has given enough thought to this issue.

The Earth Charter/Declaration of Principles

The Earth Charter became a very popular issue at PrepCom III. In the end more than 60 countries proposed language for the draft document of principles, which now has a large number of provisions grouped under 17 general headings. Several countries that initially had opposed the idea of an Earth Charter, such as the U.S., shifted position and introduced their own principles.

The U.S., after hard lobbying by the US Citizens Network for UNCED through the Ethics Committee for Development and Environment, accepted the concept of "a new paradigm of interdependence and global responsibility" and drafted a reasonable version of Charter principles. CAPE'92 representa-

tives worked with the U.S. on the recognition of individual rights to information, decision making and other procedures. The U.S. proposal included one very good provision (public participation in decision-making) but also

a jarring note: the free market should be seen as a principle of democracy, without any measures to guarantee responsibility for the environmental or social consequences. Ethics is still seen as a marginal issue to the so called "real world" of business-as-usual.

Developing countries said that their issues were ignored by the industrialized north, and after they failed to impose their own version of the Charter, they won a delay in final negotiations until PrepCom IV. Peru, Canada, and Japan made substantial contributions to the Charter draft. Japan stunned everyone by including a call for changes in life style and reduction of resource

Japan stunned everyone by including a call for changes in life style and reduction of resource consumption.

consumption, and the Vatican made sound statements on ethics and Christian responsibility.

PLENARY - CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

With the end of the cold war, priorities should shift from military and defense to environmental security.

"If population doubles again in the next half-century, a five-to-ten times increase in economic activities and a large increase in production will be required to enable them to meet basic needs and minimal aspirations". The implications of these connections are dealt with in plenary sessions.

Plenary sessions (the main formal meetings whose work affects all the Working Groups) were relegated to the last week. This generated bitter frustration and complaints from the developing countries and the NGOs, because the Plenary was supposed to deal with the whole area of sustainable development, poverty and international economy.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar opened the Plenary sessions and emphasized that with the end of the cold war, priorities should shift from military and defense to environmental security.

A resolution was approved requesting the Secretary-General to prepare for PrepCom IV an Agenda 21 Action Program on issues of poverty, sustainability and demographic pressures, health and education. Several NGOs working on these issues were frustrated by the way business was conducted on these matters.

Nevertheless, some progress was achieved by a resolution that made the connections between poverty and environmental degradation, recognizing the pivotal role of women in sustainable development and the role of indigenous peoples in the preservation of traditional knowledge for sustainable development. The resolution also called for the programs developed by Agenda 21 to be consistent with the following priorities: a) international economy; b) development assistance; c) promotion of sustainable livelihoods; d) living conditions of the poor; e) reduction of demographic pressures; f) education, training and awareness

for sustainable development; and g) environmental health aspects of development.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 will be one of the major outputs of UNCED, along with the Earth Charter. It will be a modified version of action plans that have been endorsed by past UN Conferences, with a specific emphasis on implementation. There are three objectives of Agenda 21, besides the plans themselves: a) to integrate the environment and development aspects of each issue; b) to clarify the cross-sectoral aspects of each issue, and c) to identify the linkages between each issue and all the others which affect or are affected by it, and to make their implications clear.

Agenda 21 is intended to include a means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of these decisions after the Conference. Thus, it must provide for a continuing source of information to evaluate and adapt implementation in the next century. One of the most important decisions that must be made during the next PrepCom in New York, will be where in the existing United Nations structure to locate the functions now being performed by the UNCED Secretariat and, consequently, where the structure necessary to oversee the implementation of Agenda 21 will be located.

If there is to be a structure for the functioning of Agenda 21, this will imply a significant institutional capacity in whatever organization is assigned this responsibility. The information storage and processing facilities need a permanent place in the UN, and a body of able professionals and specialists.

Ten subject areas have text already proposed, in the form of "Options for Agenda 21," or Action Plans for Agenda 21, and will continue to be negotiated in PrepCom IV, while new ones will be added. The action plans will consist of 9 Global goals, specific objectives and targets for each subject area (such as oceans or air pollution), plus estimates of costs, and commitment for aid for capacity building, technology transfer and human resource development in developing countries.

Some governments said that the best vehicle to carry out many of the requirements that will emerge next June will be the Global Environment Facility (GEF) administered by the World

Bank, which is currently a tiny and new experimental grant fund. To greatly expand its role and funding base without fundamental reforms (especially public participation in project decisions and evaluations) is disturbing to those who have watched the slow pace of reform at the World Bank.

The introduction of concepts such as "global goals", "global commons" and a "global action agenda" led developing and industrialized countries to different concerns. While some developing countries said that they did not come to the conference to negotiate away "permanent sovereignty over our natural resources", the U.S. said that the "American life style is not for negotiation".

Financial Resources

The difficult issues of financial resources and technology transfer resulted in lengthy discussions between developing and industrialized countries, but remained mostly unresolved. The U.S. opposed any commitment to new and additional financial resources to help developing countries comply with new requirements; instead it stressed private sector participation as the key to environmentally sound development, and focused on technology in the market place.

A number of potential mechanisms for

The U.S. opposed any commitment to new and additional financial resources to help developing countries.

transferring resources were proposed by other countries, including debt relief, debt-for-nature swaps, special drawing rights in the IMF, and a tax on use of the global commons (e.g., a carbon tax).

The Japanese seem to be taking the lead again. Rumor is that the Japanese Government, after

Agenda 21 is also supposed to include agreements on new or strengthened institutions and how to pay for all the increased expenses of developing countries.

PrepCom III offered to host a governmental meeting to discuss new and additional funds for the developing countries, and that they are pledging a significant amount for this purpose.

Human Settlements

The Plenary adopted a decision to consider Human Settlements in all of the other issue areas. The decision notes that human settlements should be seen as a framework for sustainable development, and should be included in discussions of atmosphere, land, coastal areas, freshwater and waste management. A decision was made to ask the General-Secretary to prepare a Action Program for Agenda 21 on the issue of Human Settlements.

Population

The fact is that since 1900 the world's population has multiplied more than three times. Its economy has grown twenty times. In the next 50 years with a continuance of annual growth rates of 3.2 to 4.7 percent, the world's population could reach up to 10 billion people.

Recognizing the intricate relationship between population and economic issues, population implications were accepted and integrated into the Agenda 21 Programs, but not without the

Population issues were accepted and integrated into the Agenda 21 Program.

friction of a north-south conflict. Population is now part of several final decision documents:

1. Earth Charter; 2. Structure of Agenda 21 (which requires the integration of popula-

tion concerns into all Agenda 21 documents); 3. A specific recommendation for Agenda 21 to establish the linkages between population and poverty, health and the environment; and 4. The Human Settlements decision calls for harmonizing human-settlement policies with population and urbanization policies.

Poverty

According to the World Priorities Institute, over 1.3 billion people lack access to drinking water; 880 million cannot read or write; 770

"People are poor because they have no power. Any new effort to deal with poverty and promote sustainability must focus on empowerment. Access to information and full partnership in decision-making are key elements. UNCED must support the development of policies, programmes and processes which enable the poor to become powerful."

(NGO Poverty and Affluence Working Group)

million have insufficient food for an active working life, and 800 million live in "absolute poverty", lacking even the most rudimentary necessities. Each year 14 million children, about 10 percent of the number born annually, die of hunger.

According to Ruth Sivard (World Military and Social Expenditures), during the past 40 years economic growth has been concentrated in the north. With 20 percent of the world's population, industrialized countries consume about 80 percent of the world's resources and goods. Tensions around these issues are making UNCED negotiations difficult. But, a consensus emerged among governments, the UNCED Secretariat, and the NGOs, that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of environmental degradation. Several countries stated that the eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Eradication of poverty was introduced by the Secretariat as one of the nine global goals. The Secretariat background paper suggested that poverty should be eradicated in 10 years.

This provoked very emotional reactions from U.S. delegates, who considered this time frame "absolutely unrealistic and impossible, even immoral", and no realistic alternative goal has been agreed as yet.

Southern and European NGOs were deeply involved in poverty issues. Many statements were made by NGOs, and an International Task Group on Poverty was created to continue the work. At the next PrepCom, important decisions must be made on poverty and its relation with the environment.

Transfer of Technology

The developing countries called for establishment of some international mechanism to finance the transfer to them of environmentally sound technology on preferential terms (i.e., low cost). This is a most complex issue since it involves patents, markets, international trade rules, capacity building and international cooperation, among private, public and scientific bodies. A heavily bracketed draft resolution will be negotiated next PrepCom. No agreement has been reached on items like: establishment of appropriate international and national mechanisms to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of environmentally sound technology that will allow developing countries to make the transition to sustainable development; purchasing patent licenses on commercial terms for their transfer to developing countries on non-commercial terms; capacity building; and the support of regional and national programs of scientific research, dissemination of information and technology development.

Sustainability, Economy, Integrated Economic-Environmental National Accounting and Economic Instruments

Although the south had experienced economic growth during the 1960s and 1970s, during the 1980s the situation in many developing countries changed dramatically for the worse, both economically and ecologically. Population growth outpaced economic growth and 80 percent of these countries suffered falls in per capita income. Terms of trade also deteriorated, with commodity prices becoming increasingly unstable, while industrial country market economies became more protectionists, and aid funds were stagnated. Increasingly short-term goals took the place of long-term planning for development and growth.

Trade was a center of discussions among NGOs, with many calling for "green" reforms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). However, the developing countries are more concerned that strong environmental measures could be used against them as barriers to trade.

On this whole set of issues there is a general sense that the economic system works

against sustainability, but no agreements yet on what to do about it. Brazil's environment minister, Jose Lutzenberger, made a strong case for abolishing the terms "developed" and "developing" countries, because the form of development in most industrialized countries is not sustainable, and cannot be extended to the entire world.

The countries requested the Secretary-General to continue work on these issues and to prepare and submit to PrepCom IV Proposals for Action for Agenda 21 on sustainability, international economy, integrated economic-environmental accounting and economic instruments.

* * *

Whether or not agreements are signed in Rio, UNCED cannot be a success unless a new awareness and a firm purpose emerges at the governmental level to move mankind off its present suicidal course, and new forms of economics and international relations are established on a basis of sustainability, participation, cooperation and interdependence.

* * *

PrepCom IV

PrepCom IV will take place in New York from March 2 to April 3. Meetings may continue through weekends and evenings. However, considering the magnitude of the issues still to be negotiated, the 5 weeks may be too short. Rumors are already flying that negotiating sessions will be set up in Rio during the period prior UNCED.

PrepCom IV will see the end of the rhetorical stage and the sharpening of negotiations. Most of the attention will be focused on positions of the U.S., since it has taken many apparently inflexible positions, which fail to confront the real problems facing the planet. The U.S. approach is to continue business as usual, and the government seems determined not to look forward. However some analysts see this attitude as a strategic move on the part of the U.S., suggesting it does not want to fix positions too early, so that it may maintain leverage for negotiating positions. Another possibility is that this is simply a tactic to leave the major dramatic announcements of important agreements for the last moment, so in Rio, the U.S. President gains the credit for saving the world.

PrepCom IV will see the end of the rhetorical stage and the sharpening of negotiations.

Toward New York

In New York all the crucial issues must still be negotiated in order to design Action Plans for Agenda 21. The following are some of the major subject areas:

- Definition of an Earth Charter and implementation programs adequately addressing fundamental values, the eco-industrial revolution, and necessary changes of behavior for all;
- Establishment of global goals;
- Reorientation of priorities for Agenda 21 toward development and economic adjustments;
- Identification of mechanisms for reversing the outflows of financial resources from developing countries and ensuring their access to the new and additional resources they will require to incorporate the environmental dimension into their own development;
- Design of new economic models for assessing risk, especially when possible outcomes are irreversible;
- Commitment to changing international and national systems of subsidies and penalties, which motivate economic behavior, to ensure that they provide strong incentives for sustainability;

and changes in national accounts, to reflect the real values of the environment and resources;

- Identification of ways to make patterns of trade more equitable and the greening of independent organizations in the UN system, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), possible;

- The means to ensure food security;

- Transition to patterns of production and consumption in the industrialized countries which will drastically reduce their disproportionate contribution to deterioration of the earth's environment and depletion of non-renewable and renewable resources;

- Agreement on a statement of forest principles that joins the responsibilities of all countries toward all forests;

- Changing of patterns of energy use worldwide, ensuring availability of energy supplies under conditions that will safe-guard the environment and reduce risks of climate change and global warming;

- Ensure equitable access to, and use of, global commons by all nations under conditions that will provide for their protection;

- The reversal of the destruction of renewable resources, soil, forests, biological and genetic resources;

- The design of mechanisms and the determination of provisions for monitoring enforcement and compensation of environmental losses, damages and use of resources;

- The redefinition of the role of NGOs and local participation, and greater technical and scientific participation in diplomacy;

- The rise of women to an equal status of partnership;

- Securing of the rights of future generations;

- The outlining of a program for eradication of the structural roots of poverty and its consequent impact on the environment;

- The redefinition of security, both national and international;

- Redefinition of traditional concepts of national sovereignty.

* * *

Parallel Negotiations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Given the serious threat of the greenhouse effect and climate change, in December 1990, the UN General Assembly established an autonomous Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Convention on Climate Change under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The objective is the negotiation of an "effective" treaty containing legally binding commitments. This negotiation is separated from the UNCED but is intended to be completed and signed in Rio in June along with the Earth Charter and Agenda 21.

The first two sessions dealt mostly with procedure and critical analysis, but very little negotiation. However, some trends were already emerging during the second meeting in Chantilly, Virginia (U.S.), last spring. The major obstacle to the negotiating process became the U.S. resistance to targets and timetables in the reduction of greenhouse gases, to new and additional funds for the transition to be made by developing countries, and to technology transfers.

The third session took place in Nairobi, Kenya, September 9-20, 1991. Some negotiation started, which left the U.S. isolated from the other industrialized countries because of its continued opposition to any specific targets and timetables limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse emissions. According to a summary prepared by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), two of the closest allies of the U.S., Japan and the UK, moved closer to the Europeans who were defending a position for the stabilization of CO₂ emissions by the end of the century.

The U.S. position is the stumbling block, but not all European countries are making a

Some negotiation started to take place which left the U.S. isolated from the other industrialized countries because of its continued opposition to any specific targets and timetables limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse emissions.

"CAN called for at least a 20% reduction in energy related CO₂ below 1988 levels by the year 2000 by industrialized country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)."

serious call for cuts in emissions beyond stabilization of CO₂. The Climate Action Network (CAN), a transnational NGO, has called for at least a 20% reduction in energy related CO₂ below 1988 levels by the year 2000 by industrialized country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Two negotiating sessions on climate change will still take place before the next PrepCom that might impact UNCED success, one on December 9-20, 1991, in Geneva, and the other is scheduled for New York on February 18-28, 1992, just before PrepCom IV.

Biodiversity Convention

Similar to climate change, biodiversity also gained the status of a separate negotiation for a Convention. The September/October preparatory committee took place in Geneva, with more positive results than the Climate Change negotiations have ever had. A revised draft text will be the basis for negotiation for the next meeting in Geneva, November 25-December 2, which might come to some conclusion by the last meeting in May 1992, in Nairobi.

Although it was said that the "participants worked in an impressive harmony," the very complex problems still have points of discord to be resolved. The most difficult issues are: fair distribution of rights to and benefits from biodiversity and biotechnology, technical and scientific cooperation, and exchange of information. Far from being

resolved are other issues concerning intellectual property rights and access to and transfer of technology. Nevertheless, there is hope that a convention on biodiversity and biotechnology will be ready to be signed in Rio. Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of UNEP, appealed to delegates to not use the lack of comprehensive information as an excuse for policy procrastination. He emphasized that "in the majority of the scientific community the imminence of the extinction problem is undeniable." This message sounded like a direct appeal to the United States that has been calling for further study as an excuse to avoid agreeing to specific targets and timetables in these separate negotiations on Climate Change and biodiversity as well as in UNCED itself.

Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of UNEP, appealed to delegates to not use the lack of comprehensive information as an excuse for policy procrastination.

Highlights of the General Assembly

■ On November 18-19th, the Secretariat of UNCED and the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for Climate Change introduced their progress reports to the General Assembly of the 46th session with hopeful statements. No major changes were brought up by them or the countries. The government statements of response were general and rhetorical.

■ Major concerns were expressed by the Secretariat and by several countries about the little time left and the amount of work still to do; financial resources for sustainable development are still not resolved; more time is needed for negotiations on the development side of UNCED; and more money to help southern countries participate in negotiations.

◆ Delegates seemed better informed and educated on environment and climate change in general. More commitment toward UNCED goals was evident.

■ Many countries expressed their perception of UNCED as opening a new era at the UN. This is the first time an integral approach is being taken, leading to new forms of problem solving and cooperation. A call was made by many for a new approach to negotiations for the next PrepCom - faster, more transparent and more responsible towards the planet. Maurice Strong suggested that Ministers of State come to New York to expedite the pace of negotiations.

■ The G77 reaffirmed their need for new and additional resources, technology transfer and "differentiated responsibility", which means they have relatively less responsibility for past causes of pollution problems than the industrialized countries. Their statement also called on the industrialized countries to take responsibility for the greenhouse gases and their present excessive emissions of pollutants.

■ Rumors are that the G77 block is preparing a proposal for daily plenary meetings at PrepCom IV to allow enough time for adequate negotiations on sustainable development to take place this time, unlike in Geneva. A related rumor was that Tunisia was lobbying for NGOs to be excluded from the Plenary meetings, since they would be negotiation sessions, not just for speeches. It seems that Brazil would block such a suggestion. The G77 also complained that they have been pressed to take the burden of international conservation, to allow the north to keep its unsustainable consumption patterns. The G77 applauded the inclusion in the agenda of trade, poverty, and international economy.

■ The EC community (via the Netherlands) took the blame and responsibility for many global problems and acknowledged the need for more financial resources. The EC also called for partnership, equity and trust.

■ The Philippines reasserted an old principle of patriarchy "that nature is there to serve man" and not the other way around, which certainly puts the environment in its place!

■ The Holy See (Vatican) made a very solid technical statement, focused on climate change and called for global responsibility and stewardship for the Earth.

■ The importance of the role of the NGOs was reaffirmed by Strong (General Secretary of UNCED), Zammit Cutajar, and Ripert (Secretary and Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations respectively), and many countries among the 40 or

so that spoke on UNCED and climate change. Decisions made about NGO participation by the last PrepComs were applauded.

■ Concern for lack of a proposal for new institutional arrangements was expressed by Strong, the EC and some other countries.

■ Many developing countries pledged their commitment to UNCED goals and reported efforts their countries are making to comply with the new concepts and demands. More Southern countries reported on plans to create environmental ministries.

■ Argentina and Colombia stated that progress on the negotiations for climate change was not enough and that the General Assembly should authorize additional meetings for next year. More assessment on the responsibility of industrial countries is needed they said, and more studies are needed on how much emissions will be allowed, and by whom, in the future.

■ The US said that successful technology cooperation would require a sound economic policy environment based on an efficient market system; an understanding by each country of its resources, capacities and needs; a sound decision-making process; and information arrangements that would let individuals and Governments know what was available and on what terms. The US is still committed to the negotiation of a free-standing convention on forests, "a convention for all forests, tropical, boreal and temperate" is urgently needed, they said. In general the US approach to technology cooperation was more positive, acknowledging the fundamental importance of this issue.

THE BUSINESS CHARTER

Last April, 700 business leaders adopted a program of environmental policies and a "Business Charter," at the Second World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM II), in Rotterdam. On that occasion, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Secretary-General, Jean Charles Rouher said that "no one in business today can afford to be uninformed about the key environmental issues addressed by business leaders at WICEM II."

The rethoric at the conference dealt with market forces, world trade, structural changes,

environmental management, communications and technology transfer. A poll concluded during the meeting showed that 77 percent of the respondents supported the statement that "A stringent voluntary code of conduct among multi-national companies would be good for the environment and the economy."

The Business Charter declares that "A versatile and dynamic business sector is the most effective driving force for sustainable development, which can best be achieved by working within the framework of the market economy, and adapting it to reflect environmental concerns more appropriately." According to the Canadian newspaper "Tribute... to the Earth Summit", sustainable development was broadly defined at that conference as "development which satisfies today's needs without depriving future generations."

Highlights of the Business Charter:

- to provide information about environmental performance to employees, shareholders, governmental authorities and the general public;
- to contribute to educational programs that promote sustainable development;
- to launch an industry initiative on environmental education;
- to remove artificial barriers to trade and to phase out subsidy policies that are hindering sustainable development;

NGO PARTICIPATION AND DYNAMICS

The numbers of accredited NGOs increased dramatically during PrepCom III, although not all of those present in Geneva actually participated in the official meetings. Before the PrepCom opened, different networks of NGOs held their own preparatory and strategy sessions, and a lobbying workshop. An important process taking place during the PrepCom was a series of dialogues between NGOs of the North and the South. This promoted some new alliances but also distracted many NGOs from a focus on UNCED and the government negotiations. Eastern European NGOs were present in more significant numbers. Open meetings outside the negotiating

rooms between NGOs and governments became a common affair.

The type of participation NGOs will be able to have in PrepCom IV is still in question since most of the New York PrepCom will consist of informal meetings. The Chairman of the PrepCom, Ambassador Tommy Koh, from Singapore, told the NGOs he is working on the issue but is finding it difficult to break through the resistance of the governments to NGOs' presence at the informal meetings. We have heard that NGOs will also be kept out of the delegates' lounge area, a key lobbying site, because the delegates were fed up with the invasion of "strange looking people in their territory".

NGOs Preparations

UNCED is a catalyst for new alliances and NGO networks worldwide. In several countries new national networks and forums were established to deal with UNCED (i.e., U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil) which may survive after June to form a national level NGO policy voice on environment and development. Meetings for NGO preparations for UNCED are being held in all the five regions of the planet, in addition to international gatherings of women (Miami), youth (Costa Rica) and indigenous people (Malaysia). A major culminating conference will take place in Paris in December 91, organized by the Environment

UNCED is a catalyst for new alliances and NGO networks worldwide.

Liaison Centre of Nairobi and paid for by the French government. It is intended to enable NGOs from around the world to reach consensus on major issues and adopt common positions for final UNCED lobbying.

Three documents are to be produced:

- 1) "Roots For The Future", a Compendium of People's Organizations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges, composed of three parts: a) "Our Diversity Is Our Richness"; b) "Consultations On People's Participation In Environmentally Sustainable Development"; c) "People's Organizations' Positions On Environment And Development Issues".

- 2) "Justice Between Peoples - Justice Between Generations," Synthesis of People's Organizations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges, composed of three parts: a) "Human

Solidarity - The Mother of All Transformations"; b) "People's Voices"; c) "Is Anyone Listening?"

- 3) "People's Action Plan For Environment And Development".

The last will be debated and adopted by the more than 800 NGOs meeting in Paris.

This conference will address issues of environment and development from the perspective of the activist NGOs and social movements.

Then in June 1992, among all the events to take place in Rio, one will be the "NGO/Social Movement Gathering," expected to be the biggest meeting devoted to policy. This conference will address issues of environment and development from the perspective of the activist NGOs and social movements.

The 17 member coordinating group to organize the meeting was appointed from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Europe, indigenous people, international NGOs networks such as the Asian and Pacific Peoples Environment Network, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, and the Brazilian NGO Forum. The agenda for this meeting includes development of NGO and social movements' strategies for the post-UNCED period, such as a plan for monitoring agreements and increasing citizens' capacities for action. NGOs will also unveil one or more alternative agreements of their own, to show what the governments should have achieved in UNCED. Barbara Bramble/NWF, was appointed to represent the U.S. in the coordinating group.

One of the most important long-term shifts in the UN process is the acceptance of the role of NGOs in the UNCED

The UN needs to find a way of working more closely with peoples' organizations, especially the non-profit ones that focus on the common good as opposed to private interests.

meetings and PrepComs. Several NGOs are working with the Secretariat on a consultative basis. NGO papers have been introduced as official documents, and the NGOs can participate in formal/public meetings, speaking on the floor just like the country delegates.

There is no doubt that progress was made on this issue, but was it enough? Most NGO don't think so. As mentioned above, NGOs presence as observers in the informal meetings is still left to the Chair's discretion. We will have to go a long way before peoples' participation in the decision-making process is ensured, locally and internationally. The state delegates still see themselves as the only privileged representatives of their countries, and look with distrust upon NGO presence.

The participants in the Stockholm Initiative (April' 91, meeting of 32 leading statesmen and women called the Stockholm Initiative on Global Security and Governance), argue that the way to reform the UN and other international institutions is, firstly, for the organization to set up an independent International Commission on Global Governance. The UN needs to find a way of working more closely with peoples' organizations, especially the non-profit ones that focus on the common good, as opposed to private interests. President Gorbachev proposed a "World Consultative Council" and an "Assembly of Public Organizations". Others are advocating a directly elected Second Chamber in the United Nations.

NGOs Accreditation

All NGOs that want to be accredited to participate in any remaining part of UNCED, including the official meeting in Rio, should send their applications to the UNCED NGO liaison office, in Switzerland by February 21.

So far, no limits on numbers of NGOs have been established. The accreditation applications must be acted upon by the governments, so PrepCom IV will be the last chance to be accredited for Rio. There is no need to actually attend a PrepCom to receive accreditation.

No decisions have been made about how many NGOs will be able to attend the official meeting in Rio, nor how they will be selected. The NGOs which are accredited during the PrepComs

probably have the best chance to get access to the official conference site (which is many miles from the city of Rio). In Geneva, NGOs proposed that all accredited groups have the same status, with a system of rotation to determine who could attend the official meeting each day. This would avoid the creation of "second class NGOs" permanently barred from the official conference. Decision on this issue will be made by the General Assembly of the UN in December in New York.

by Angela Harkavy
at NWF, 1400, 16th St. NW 5th floor,
Washington, D.C. 20015 USA
Tel:(202)979 6609, Fax:(202)797 5486
Home tel:(703)425 0741
Email - en.nwfip or en.sacre

I gratefully acknowledge the editing work, input and advice given by Barbara Bramble, Director of the International Affairs Department of National Wildlife Federation.

Resources:

PrepCom III, A Compilation of the Four Weekly Survey Synopses, by Langston James (Kimo) and others

A & D Files - UNCED Secretariat

Reports from the Alliance of Northern People for Environment & Development

Econet - Several online conferences

The Earth Summit - UNCED Secretariat

World Goodwill Newsletter

NGOs papers distributed at PreCom III

The Report of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, for the GA of the 46th session

Network 92, by the Center of Our Common Future

The numerous and friendly chats at the lounge in Geneva with delegates

The daily NGOs strategy meetings in Geneva

THE EARTH CHARTER

PREAMBLE:

We, the peoples of the world and the representatives of the nations, understand that the Earth is a unique, whole, and interdependent system. In the face of our grave planetary crisis, we are conscious that many of our past perceptions and present global relationships are no longer adequate. Therefore, we declare these principles to recover the Earth's integrity, to secure the future of life, and to teach ourselves and our children that whatever we humans do to the web of life, we do to ourselves.

PRINCIPLES:

- I. **Planetary Unity** – The Earth, with its diverse life forms, is a functioning whole. We have the inescapable obligation to respect all life and Earth's eco-systems.
- II. **Global Interdependence** – The Earth community, of which humankind is a part, functions in interrelated cycles, processes, and systems upon which life depends. This reality forms a basis for all social, cultural, scientific, economic, legal, and political arrangements.
- III. **Human Community** – Regardless of diverse expressions, languages and cultures, humanity is one. All individuals have the fundamental rights to freedom, equality and an environment adequate for their health and well-being. Individuals, peoples, and nations must act in partnership to ensure the integrity and health of the planet.
- IV. **Sustainable Development** – Authentic progress in the human community must foster a sustainable and regenerative Earth order. Only within this framework can individuals realize their unique potential, both for themselves and in service to the common good.
- V. **Universal Responsibility** – The human capacity for learning about and making decisions on the environment requires all individuals, peoples, business enterprises, institutions, and governments to act as guardians of the Earth. All must live in balance with nature to ensure the continuity and quality of life for future generations.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The principles set forth in the present Charter shall be reflected in the law and practice of each state, as well as at the international level.

I. Social

- A. The elements of each culture which contribute towards a united, global, and harmonious society should be fostered. Cultures based on over-consumption of the world's resources must adapt to reflect ecological realities.
- B. Local groups have the right to participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives and their regions. The achievement of sustainable development requires the full recognition of the importance of indigenous cultures.
- C. Women shall be accorded full partnership in all fields of human endeavor. Such a partnership is fundamental to society's sustainability.
- D. Education should be available to all individuals in all nations. Such education should promote the consciousness of the common heritage of humanity and the integral connection between humankind and the larger world of nature.
- E. Information on activities and products which alter the natural environment must be made available in terms comprehensible to the public at large.
- F. International organizations and member states should make concerted efforts to slow the dramatic growth in world population by encouraging fair standards of living for all and making family planning services available to all on a voluntary basis.
- G. Institutions at all levels of society must adopt practical forms of problem solving at the most basic, workable level to remain true to the requirements of universal responsibility and participation.

II. Scientific

- A. Constant efforts shall be made to increase knowledge of environmental and socio-cultural conditions by scientific research and to disseminate such knowledge without restriction.
- B. The worldwide monitoring system to collect scientific data on the Earth's atmosphere and environment should be expanded by pooling the resources of scientists of all nations.
- C. Environmental risks, and the state of the planet, should be openly discussed and clear information provided to the public about potential hazards and risks.
- D. All means must be employed to avoid irreversible harm to the environment.

III. Economic

- A. Economic indicators which reflect full allocation of natural and human resources must serve as the basis of all international institutional lending practices, national accounting systems, and business and trade accounts.
- B. In economic planning preference must be given to long-term sustainable development over short-term gains and special interests.
- C. Priority must be given to the alleviation of poverty and the attendant harm that poverty brings to people and the environment.
- D. The principles of the free market, particularly when they are exercised by multinational corporations, must be exercised within the context of a regulatory framework designed to protect a sustainable and just global society.
- E. The capacity of the Earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained, restored or improved.
- F. The non-renewable resources of the Earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment are shared by all humankind.
- G. All nations equitably share the responsibility for ensuring a healthy environment. The ability of developing countries to fulfill this responsibility shall be taken into account.
- H. Wealth and progress must be democratically redefined in light of this Earth Charter.

IV. Legal/Political

- A. Far reaching legal and institutional changes, including new global institutions, supported by universally agreed upon enforceable laws, must be implemented to achieve a sustainable and just global society.
- B. The strengthening of the United Nations, its constituent organizations, and multi-lateral institutions is necessary to ensure peace, social equity, environmental security and economic well-being for all the world's peoples.
- C. No nation shall plead sovereign immunity in light of overriding global emergencies or catastrophes.

V. Global Security

- A. International Institutions and nations should regard environmental concerns as a pre-eminent global security issue.
- B. Global and regional environmental issues must be an integral part of the agenda and operations of the Security Council of the United Nations, and of the national security agencies of all nations.
- C. Precautionary measures to protect global environmental security should be supported by all nations and local governments, even in the absence of scientific certainty.
- D. States shall use natural resources of the global commons in a safe, reasonable, and equitable manner.
- E. Consultation must replace confrontation and domination in order to gain the cooperation of the family of nations in devising and implementing measures to preserve the Earth's ecological balance. Nations should drastically reduce military expenditures and allocate those funds into environmental security and sustainable global development.
- F. All nations shall report immediately environmental accidents of a transnational nature.
- G. Nations and the appropriate international bodies share a joint responsibility to respond to transnational environmental disasters with full assistance. Nations and international institutions must guarantee that all victims of such transnational environmental accidents receive non-discriminatory treatment.
- H. Social structures and institutions at all levels must be dedicated to achieving harmony among people, nations and the Earth.

ADOPTION: The overwhelming challenge of the global crisis compels us to exercise responsible care for our endangered planet. Each person, public and private entity, and national and international body, has a duty to act in accordance with the provisions of the present Charter and shall strive to ensure that the objectives and requirements of the present Charter are met. Therefore, we, the undersigned peoples of the Earth and the representatives of the nations, hereby adopt this Earth Charter.

To comment, contact:

PETER ADRIANCE, BAHAI'S OF THE U.S., 1606 NEW HAMPSHIRE AV, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009 202-265-8830 FAX: 202-265-6012 ECoNET: BAHAIUSA
ANGELA HARKAVY, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, 1400 16TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 202-797-6609 FAX: 202-797-5486 ECoNET: NWFIF

US Citizens Network for UNCED

To obtain information about UNCED (The Earth Summit)

Prepared by Angela Harkavy
Co-chair International Committee

Newsletters:

- NGLS - E & D File** - United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, published by Geneva (quite dedicated to UNCED). NGLS, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or 2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1103, N.Y. NY 10017 US
- Earth Summit News** - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. No.1, 160 route de Florissant - Case Postale 80 CH - 1231 Conches, Switzerland
tel:(41-22)789 1676 - Fax (41-22)-789-3536 Email - cdp!unced
- Network 92** - Published by the Center for Our Common Future and the IFC. Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Paquis CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland Tel:(41-22)732 7117
Fax: 738 5046 Email: Green Net:commonfuture
- Cross Currents** - Produced by the Conference of NGOs in consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO) ,Planning Committee for UNCED, c/o C.P. 50, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
- ECO Newsletter - Climate Change** - Media Natura - Editor Chris BLigh
21 Tower Str., London, WC2H, UK Tel:(+44)71 240 2936
Fax: (+44) 71 240 2291 Email: gn:medianatura
Electronic copies of Eco can be obtained from: igc:larris
tel:(403) 852-4057 (Canada)
- US Citizens Network Newsletter** - 300 Broadway, #39 San Francisco, CA 94133 tel: (415)956 6161
Fax:(415)956 0241, Email:en.citizensnet
- Earth Summit Update** - Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 122 C Street, N.W. Suite 700, Washington D.C.. 20001 T:(202)628 1400

Other:

- IFC - International Facilitation Committee:** Facilitates information relative to UNCED and all the independent sectors, supporting NGO's participate on UNCED. Jose Soto, c/o Centre for Our Common Future 52, Rue de Paquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. T: (41-22) 732 7117, Fax: 738 5046 Email: :commonfuture
- UNCED NGO Liaison Office:** Yolanda Kakabadse - Focal point for relations with non- governmental organizations. Accreditation and all other NGOs activities to UNCED. 160 route de Florissant - Case Postale 80, CH 1231 Conches, Switzerland Tel:(41 22)789 1676 Fax (41 22)789 3536 Email - cdp!unced
- One World Group of Broadcasters:** Massive Tv effort in support of the Earth Summit, Mr. Seelmann - Eggebert, NDR Gazellenkamp 57, 200 Hamburg 54, Fax (040)560 4579
- US UNCED Coordination Center,** State Department, 722 Jackson Pl., NW, Washington D.C. 20503 T:(202)395 3110, Fax: 395 1036

Electronic Conferences:

En.unced.general - en.unced.documents - en.unced.news - en.unced.schedule - en.unced.inbox - en.unced.topics - en.unced.readit - en.unced.dialogue - en.unced.agenda21 - en.unced.earthcharter - en.climate - en.energy - en.alerts - cnu.steering (US Citizens Network for the UNCED), cnu.thics

National Wildlife Federation

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE EARTH SUMMIT

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCED



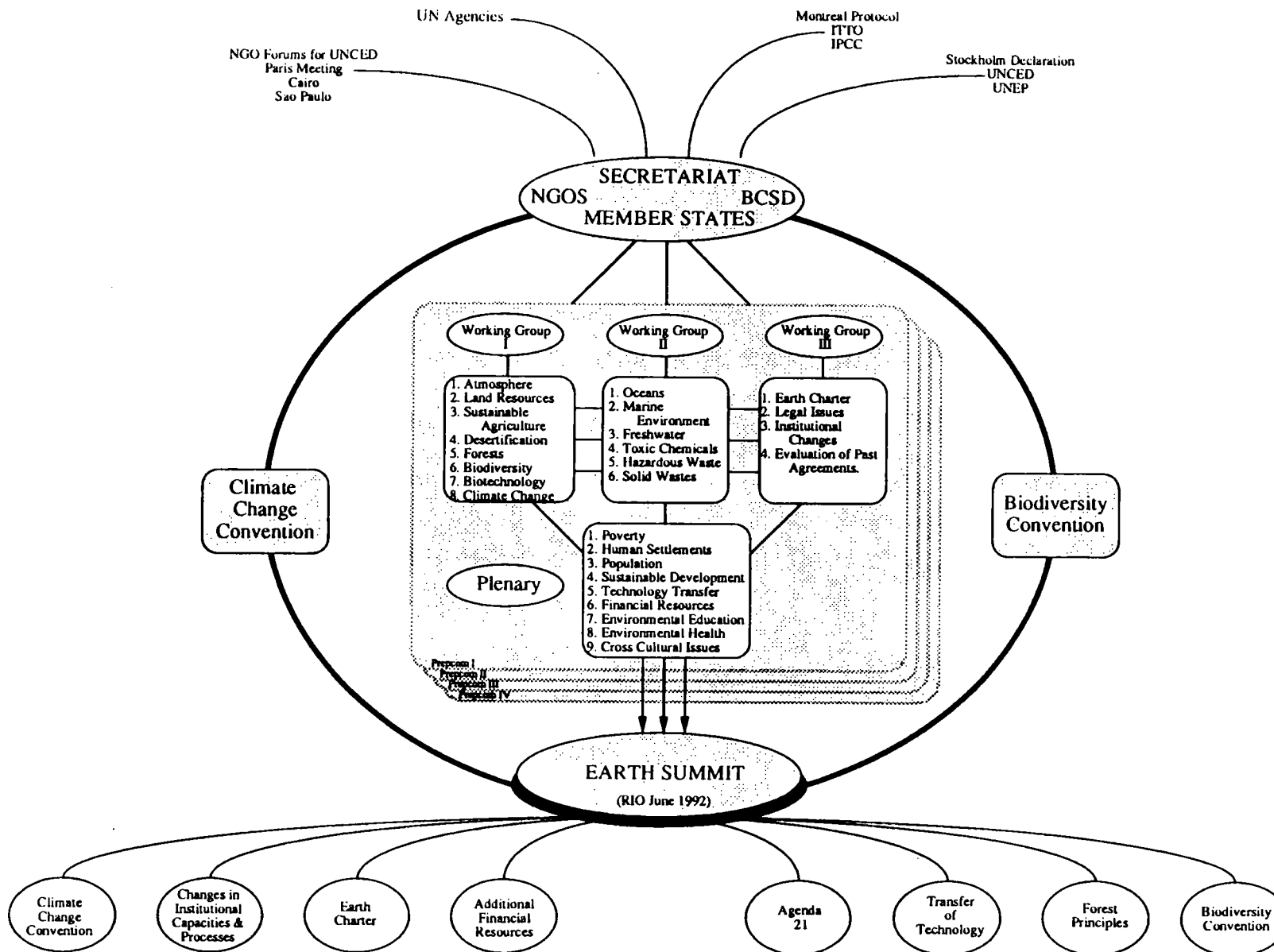
IN OUR HANDS

International Affairs Department

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

UNCED Flow Chart.....	cover
Introduction/What is a PrepCom?.....	01
"Formals" v. "Informals" v. "Informal-Informals".....	02
Working Group I.....	03
Atmosphere.....	03
Integrated Land Resources and Sustainable Agriculture.....	04
Desertification.....	04
Forests.....	05
Biodiversity and Biotechnology.....	06
Working Group II.....	07
Oceans.....	07
Waste.....	07
Fresh Water.....	07
Working Group III.....	08
Institutional Reform.....	08
The Earth Charter/Declaration of Principles.....	09
Plenary - Cross Cutting Issues.....	09
Agenda 21.....	10
Financial Resources.....	10
Human Settlements.....	11
Population.....	11
Poverty.....	11
Transfer of Technology.....	12
Sustainability, Economy, Integrated Economic-Environmental National Accounting.....	12
PrepCom IV.....	12
Toward New York.....	13
Parallel Negotiations.....	14
Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	14
Biodiversity Convention.....	14
Highlights of the UN General Assembly meeting on UNCED.....	15
The Business Charter.....	16
NGO Participation and Dynamics.....	17
NGOs' Preparations.....	17
NGOs' Accreditation.....	18
Annex 1.....The US Citizens Network "Earth Charter"	
Annex 2.....How to Obtain Information about UNCED	

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE on ENVIRONMENT and DEVELOPMENT (UNCED) 1992



KEY

UNEP - UN Environmental Program	ITTO - International Tropical Timber Organization
UNDP - UN Developmental Program	NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations
IPCC - Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change	BCSD - Business Council for Sustainable Development

prepared by Angela O. Harkavy - 10/27/91

National Wildlife Federation

The Results of PrepCom III THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NEGOTIATING SESSION FOR UNCED



International Affairs Department
November 1991

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will take place in June 1992, in Brazil. It will be the largest United Nations gathering ever held, when perhaps most of the 160 Heads of State or Heads of Government will meet in Rio de Janeiro.

Recognizing a crisis of unprecedented proportion endangering the future of life on earth, UNCED was conceived as "a means of mobilizing the political will of nations to take a number of concrete actions to redress the world's environmental and economic imbalances," said Maurice Strong, the secretary general of the Conference.

"A means of mobilizing the political will of nations to take a number of concrete actions to redress the world's environmental and economic imbalances".

It is meant to deal with a rising tide of toxic substances; contamination of fresh water, oceans, and atmosphere; desertification and loss of soil and fresh water, forest cover and important species of plant and animal life; disturbing increases in human numbers and polluting activities

since the industrial revolution, especially in recent decades. It must also attack poverty, indebtedness, trade and aid, and induce all nations to embrace the concept of "sustainable living." No international conference has ever been so ambitious, and as a consequence most negotiators are simply overwhelmed by the number and the interrelationship of the issues.

In addition to UNCED itself, intergovernmental parallel negotiations were set for issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity. The track dealing with Climate Change is working to deter the projected rapid rise in global temperatures and sea levels, possibly greater in the next century than in the 10,000 years since the last ice age.

What is special about UNCED, said some governments at the 46th session of the General Assembly of the UN, is that it is a call to governments, business, peoples and individuals to "begin to exercise responsibility for the planet as a whole." It is the first time that the world problems are examined in an integral manner, and the first time that there is such a coordination among the many UN organizations.

It is a call to governments, business, peoples and individuals to begin to exercise responsibility for the planet as a whole.

WHAT IS A PREPCOM?

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings are a series of four negotiating sessions that precede the actual UNCED conference itself; the latter is essentially a signing ceremony. So, the PrepComs are where almost all the action is. The first one, held

The PrepComs are where almost all the action is.

in Nairobi in 1990, set the agenda and negotiating procedures. For example, it was decided there to divide most issues into separate Working Groups (analogous to Congressional committees) for detailed discussions. Thus forests and transboundary air pollution are dealt with in Working Group I, toxic wastes and oceans, in Working Group II, the Earth Charter and new institutions, in Working Group III.

Other issues are called "cross-cutting," meaning they affect all of the specific subjects. Cross-cutting issues include poverty, financial resources, population and transfer of technology, and they are dealt with in the Plenary (analogous to the House or Senate floor).

The PrepComs work through the three Working Groups, and the Informal and Informal-Informal meetings, building discussions on the background papers and draft agreements produced by the Secretariat.

PrepCom II was held in Geneva in March, 1991, and was devoted to the review of detailed factual reports on each issue prepared by the Secretariat (the staff of the Conference). Although the reports were pretty good, most countries criticized them and asked for rewrites. PrepCom III marked the beginning of negotiations; but unfortunately, very little progress was made.

"Formals" v. "Informals" v. "Informal-Informals"

Believe it or not, the above terms were the subject of many battles. The reasons are:

1. According to the U.N. General Assembly resolution establishing UNCED, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) are only allowed to take part in the formal meetings of the Conference in its Plenary and Working Groups meetings. The informal meetings are like congressional committee meetings, and informal-informals are like subcommittees, where all the real work gets done, so NGO access to them is crucial. But so far, NGO access has been left up to each Working Group chair. (The formal and informal sessions have

The informal-informals are where down-and-dirty name calling takes place, there is no tape recording or translation, and the governments don't want spectators.

simultaneous translation into the seven U.N. languages, and are held in the big assembly rooms. The only difference is that an informal has its own chair person, and it can be called to deal with just one issue for an extended period. (i.e., an evening devoted just to forests.)

2. The informal-informal is where down-and-dirty name calling takes place, there is no tape recording or translation, and the governments don't want spectators. NGOs could rarely gain admittance to these; however, sometimes NGOs gained access to informals; and they were always allowed into the formals, where NGOs could actually make statements, not just observe.

3. The catch is that in New York, at the fourth PrepCom next March, where most of the negotiating will be done, 90% of the sessions will be either informal or informal-informal. So unless this issue is resolved in NGOs' favor, there will be much less chance to affect the March PrepCom than there was in Geneva.

Country delegations in Geneva varied in size from 1 to 45 members. Small delegations did not have any hope of participating fully in the negotiations, since several formal or informal sessions would often be underway at the same time. Ironically, the U.S., which had the largest and best-prepared delegation, was the most difficult of all the players.

The U.S., which had the largest and best prepared delegation, was also the most difficult of all the players.

Singled out as an impediment to agreements on a variety of major issues -- such as hazardous waste exports, climate change, and beefed-up finan-

cial assistance to the Third World -- the U.S. positions will make or break UNCED's accomplishments. This will all come to a head in New York in March during PrepCom IV, which is considered the crucial meeting for UNCED's destiny.

The tensions between northern and southern economic agendas; between environmental and development issues; and among governments, the UNCED Secretariat, and the NGOs, in the context of overburdened delegates, a too-complex agenda, and the sense of time running out, tell the story of PrepCom III.

WORKING GROUP I

Working Group I focussed on several areas related to atmosphere: transboundary air pollution, energy efficiency, environmentally sound transportation systems, and promoting sustainable energy, consumption patterns and lifestyles.

Atmosphere

Since the opening sessions of this Working Group the industrialized countries, especially the United States, came under attack by delegates from the South for being the biggest cause of the greenhouse effect.

Speaking for the Group of 77, Edward Kufour, Ghana's Ambassador challenged the developed countries to make genuine commitments and provide resources to developing countries to meet the challenges of the shift to sustainable development.

A proposal for an Action Program for Agenda 21 was introduced for discussion by the Secretariat. It contains eight major areas of action with regard to the protection of the atmosphere and related sectors - energy, transport and industry. The proposal is controversial, with some governments objecting to the discussion of consumption curbs and others to the limits on energy production. The document has brackets around several parts of the text which indicates that at least one government disagrees with the provisions.

The U.S. and several other delegations objected to the emphasis on energy (they wanted

The U.S. and several other delegations objected to the emphasis on energy. They wanted energy issues relegated to the separate and currently paralyzed negotiations on climate change.

energy issues relegated to the separate and currently paralyzed negotiations on climate change). They suggested that the Agenda 21 proposals related to energy potentially violated national sovereignty. According to the World Resources Institute the United States is responsible for 25 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, most of it related to its consumption of fossil fuels. The U.S. uses twice as much energy to produce a dollar's worth of goods and services as Japan uses.

Other delegations responded that energy use and production cause air pollution and other environmental problems (in addition to climate change), and that this was an appropriate topic for UNCED and Agenda 21.

The Dutch Delegate, Leon Mazairae, speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that industrialized countries should agree to protocols to limit greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, and measures to curb deforestation. NGOs, including NWF, CAPE'92 and Globe International, actively participated in this debate, also calling for full-cost accounting for all energy systems and underscoring the importance of renewable resources over fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Developing countries objected to the abbreviated discussion of development issues in this area.

The issues of transboundary air pollution

Issues of transboundary air pollution and ozone depletion were largely ignored.

and ozone depletion were largely ignored in the official meeting, even though some European countries and NGOs described transboundary air pollution as one of the most serious environmental

problems in Europe and North America, and there was tremendous public concern about ozone depletion, particularly in countries of the southern hemisphere. Governments generally acknowledged the need to improve research and cooperation on air pollution monitoring programs, sharing of information, and pollution abatement programs. More nations were urged to ratify the Montreal Protocol (on ozone depletion) and to comply with its financial commitments.

Delegates agreed that UNCED should be kept informed of the climate change negotiations being conducted by the separate international negotiating committee, but should not duplicate or

take over that debate. Informal hallway discussions suggested that industrialized countries have been impatiently waiting for U.S. cooperation on targets and timetables for the climate change convention.

India, the world's second most populous nation, has called for a drastic change in lifestyle in the industrialized countries to reduce threats to the Earth's environment, says IPS (Inter Press Service Coverage of PrepCom3). The Indian representative Chandrashekhar Dasgupta proposed that the North apply the concept of an environmentally sustainable lifestyle by, for instance, using public transportation instead of cars. Several delegates, including some from the industrialized countries, supported the Indian stand.

Integrated Land Resources and Sustainable Agriculture

Several proposed options for Agenda 21 were drafted by the Secretariat of Working Group I, but major decisions were left for PrepCom IV. The Chairman was asked to prepare separate programs for planning and management of land resources for agriculture, genetic resources, integrated pest management and rural energy production. The Program of Action for Agenda 21 deals with protection and management of fragile ecosystems, integrated approach to planning and management of land resources, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and land conservation and rehabilitation. Surprisingly this document doesn't have many brackets.

A new item -- the world's mountains -- was introduced into the Agenda by Rudolf Hogger of the Swiss delegation, who is also chairman of the Nepal-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). He said that "mountains are a key element in the global environment and weather-making and further deterioration can have an impact on climate worldwide." About 20 percent of the Earth's land area is made up of mountains and they form a direct source of support for one-tenth of the world's population.

Experts said that sensitive mountain regions will be seriously affected by global warming, which in turn will have repercussions on plains downstream. A few degrees rise in average temperatures could melt Himalayan glaciers. It

would be hard to know at this point the extent of the impact of the melting of such masses of water, but it is not difficult to imagine that it will be a serious problem affecting millions of people living on and near mountains. A "Mountain Agenda 1992" is being prepared for the Earth Summit, and a United Nations University report was released in Geneva. The report highlighted the importance of the rich bio-diversity of mountain areas. One single mountain in the Malaysian state of Sabah, for instance, is estimated to have up to 4,500 species of plants, more than 25 percent of all the species found in the United States.

Desertification

Work on desertification suffered because translations of documents were not ready and insufficient time was devoted to the topic. After several African delegates complained that the background documents have not adequately addressed the problem, the chair promised to give it priority treatment at PrepCom IV.

The world's deserts are spreading and African Governments and environmentalists are saying "it is time to place the issue squarely back on the global agenda". It is said that an estimated 230 million people, many of them in Africa, are threatened by the effects of desertification - displacement, famine, and malnutrition. The proposed program areas for Agenda 21 to combat desertification were: development of research and knowledge, creation of monitoring systems, establishment of programs for integrated development in areas prone to desertification, design of plans to cope with environmental refugees, eradication of poverty, and development of comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes.

African states proposed the creation of a special desertification fund, which was opposed by the United States. The U.S. stressed the need to improve national economic and land management policies. Delegates did agree that desertification was both an environmental and develop-

African states proposed the creation of a special desertification fund, which was opposed by the United States.

mental issue in its own right, as well as part of the more general challenge of preserving and managing fragile ecosystems.

Forests

The loss of forests is one of the clearest examples of the scale and rapidity of human effects on the surface of the Earth. The Earth's forest cover has been reduced by one third from its original extent.

During the past four decades, the rate of deforestation has accelerated sharply, especially in developing countries, where about 60 percent of the remaining forests are found. Forty years ago, Ethiopia had 30 percent forest cover; twelve years ago, that had fallen to 4 percent; today it may be 1 percent. Until this century, India's forests covered more than half the country. Today, they are down to 14 percent. In 1988 tropical forests were disappearing at a rate estimated conservatively at over 20 million hectares per year, about the size of the UK. In the northern hemisphere the boreal forests are stable in extent, but recently threatened with new development plans in Siberia. The temperate forests also are relatively stable, but the special stands of ancient forests of the northwest U.S. and Canada are being decimated.

During PrepCom II, delegates agreed (the U.S. being a notable exception) that there was not enough time to formulate a forest convention, and that an authoritative statement of forest principles should be drafted, instead. As in earlier talks, discussions during PrepCom III reflected the differing perspectives of developing and industrialized governments. Developing countries believe that industrialized countries do not understand the realities they face on forest issues, and that the root causes of deforestation are largely macroeconomic factors involving trade and debt. NGOs criticized the Secretariat's papers for failing to recognize both the underlying causes of deforestation and the need to preserve primary forests in all countries.

The root causes of deforestation are largely macroeconomic factors involving trade and debt.

Many countries submitted draft principles and the developing countries issued a joint statement of principles. Discussions were often intense, and informal sessions went on late into the night. NGOs participated in informal as well as formal sessions until the last week, when they were barred from the informal talks. Unfortunately, an Agenda 21 Action Program has not yet been prepared for forests.

Provisionally agreed-upon points in the current draft of the forest document include the following principles: the statement should cover all types of forests; the sustainable use by forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected; full participation by women should be promoted in all aspects of forest management; sustainable management of forest is recognized as a goal; forest management decisions should be based on full economic accounting of costs and benefits, including environmental ones. The basic disagreement arises from a competition between two contrasting approaches to sovereignty. One model, according to Michael McCloskey, of the Sierra Club, is the "internationalist model", and the other the "nationalist model". The first one would follow guidelines based on the importance of forests to the whole world community. The second model implies an assumption that the international community can only make recommendations, not set standards, and the individual nations are the sole judge of what will be done. Funding and technology transfer were the other contentious issues.

Unfortunately, an Agenda 21 Action Program has not yet been prepared for forests.

The basic lines of disagreement resided on a competition between two models for the convention, or among past and future models of sovereignty.

Biodiversity and Biotechnology

Most of the discussions attempted to combine these two topics into one unwieldy subject. The reasons for this are basic issues of north-south equity. "We have the genes -- you have the money" are the elements of the equation on this negotiation from the southern perspective because: 1) conservation of biodiversity is critical to provide genetic material for biotechnology, and 2) developing countries want recognition of the value of, and fair payment for, providing the raw material, while industrialized countries want recognition of the value of, and payment for, the patented end-products. There is an enormous conflict over who has access to and/or ownership of genetic resources and, at the same time developing countries are seeking access to biotechnology know-how to do their own genetic engineering.

Some industrialized countries, maintaining that biological resources are a heritage of mankind (i.e., freely available to all), were accused by the developing countries of setting up double standards, since many of these same industrialized countries refused to support other initiatives that might threaten their national sovereignty.

Europeans called for the creation of sufficient protected areas to conserve the maximum possible number of species and ecosystems. Developing countries objected to the idea of a legally binding agreement on biodiversity conservation which they see as protecting the interests of the northern biotech industry. Brazil, Botswana, and Colombia, among others, stressed the need to consider the socio-economic ramifications of conserving biodiversity, since "we cannot continue to deal with these issues in isolation."

"We have the genes, you have the money."

Developing countries objected to the idea of a legally binding agreement on biodiversity conservation which they see as protecting the interests of the northern biotech industry.

A biodiversity decision was taken that affirms four program areas for Agenda 21. They are: provision of information on biodiversity; maximization and spreading of the benefits of biodiversity; improvement of the conservation of biological resources; and enhancement of the capacity to manage biodiversity.

On biotechnology, the U.S. sought to allay fears of the potential hazards of manipulated organisms escaping the lab, and the export of untested genetically-manipulated organisms to the South. European countries and NGOs urged the development and implementation of a bio-safety code of conduct and rules on testing safeguards, which the U.S. opposed.

The U.S. stated that the danger posed by genetically altered organisms has been exaggerated.

The U.S. stated that the danger posed by genetically altered organisms has been exaggerated, and complained that the Secretariat document on the subject demonstrated "an inappropriate and overly intense focus on risk" of the products of genetic engineering. The U.S. wants Intellectual Property Rights (i.e., patent rules) to be respected in any future instrument on biotechnology, to the dismay of the southern countries and NGOs who believe that existing international patent rules neglect the rights of local communities (especially indigenous tribes) to the genetic wealth they have helped preserve. It became clear that the concept of intellectual property rights must be redefined and regulated.

The U.S. refuses to agree to technology transfer at a below-market price because it would impose unduly onerous obligations on private companies; instead, they maintain, market forces should be allowed to prevail. The U.S. talked about "technology cooperation," instead of transfer, but it is not well defined yet.

The informal-informal (back room) consultations resulted in a redrafted Agenda 21 document for biodiversity and biotechnology. The revised drafts were adopted on the last days of PrepCom III. Consideration of these documents will be possible only at PrepCom IV. Also to be considered in March in New York is a proposal of a number of Latin American countries seeking help to increase their capability to exploit the

potential of biotechnology that could be generated from their own biological resources and traditional knowledge and practices.

* * *

WORKING GROUP II

Oceans

Discussions of proposed programs for Agenda 21 produced a long list with many brackets:

"Integrated management and [sustainable development] of coastal areas and [marine ecosystems] [exclusive economic zones]; [marine environmental protection] [marine pollution, prevention and control: land-based and sea-based activities]; marine living resources [sustainable utilization on the high seas and under national jurisdiction]; [management of high seas; living marine resources, sustainable use of living marine resources under national jurisdiction]; addressing critical uncertainties [for ocean management] and climate change; strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination; human resource development for ocean [and coastal management]; and means of implementation/resource requirements."

Slight progress was made during the last few days on the problem of land-based sources of marine pollution. The Plenary adopted a draft decision that calls for UNEP, in coordination with the UNCED Secretariat, to convene an intergovernmental meeting of experts to address this subject.

Freshwater

Many developing countries expressed their reservations with the Secretariat's documents from the beginning. They objected to the academic nature of the reports and the fact that none of them considered the effects of freshwater problems on local populations. The Action Program for Agenda 21 adopted by the Working Group calls for clarification of the linkages to

Canada stressed the importance of a conference on water, to be held in Dublin in January.

other environmental and developmental issues and declares as its major objective, "the maintenance of the hydrological, biological and chemical functions of ecosystems and to adapt human activities to the limits of nature's carrying capacity."

Major decisions on plans for assessment, action, implementation mechanisms, program targets, and costs were postponed to PrepCom IV. Canada stressed the importance of a conference on water, to be held in Dublin in January, and requested that the participants in that conference address appropriate Agenda 21 options for freshwater which could bring some substantive material for negotiations in New York.

Waste

The topic of waste is divided into four categories: (1) transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; (2) the management of radioactive waste; (3) environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals; and (4) solid wastes and sewage.

Informal consultations were held on the four substantive areas during the two weeks dedicated to this issue. NGOs were not permitted to attend these sessions and reporting was hard to come by. Several resolutions were formally "adopted" but the text had brackets all over it, meaning that the governments did not really agree to the provisions.

The major dispute involved a developing country proposal to ban the international movement of hazardous wastes. The U.S. was

the main opponent of a ban on waste trade, while the European Community supported it. Several governments are prepared to consider alternative proposals, such as to set up an international body for risk assessment and management of chemicals.

Developing countries want more monitoring and disclosure of the character of the wastes being moved; research on the health effects in developing countries; an end to pressure on poor countries to accept dumping on their territory in exchange for financial aid; and the creation of a system of financial liability to ensure compensation

The U.S. was the main opponent of a ban on waste trade, while the European Community supported it.

for countries damaged by the export of polluting substances. The U.S. resisted all attempts by developing and European countries to strengthen international safeguards. The U.S. maintains that transboundary movement and dumping is a matter between individual countries, subject only to bilateral agreement.

Several countries maintained that the most appropriate venue for the discussion of radioactive waste is the International Atomic Energy Agency; but Iceland urged UNCED to call for a ban on dumping of radioactive waste on land and sea. A six-nation confederation of Native Americans addressed the grave consequences to indigenous people from their exposure to radioactive waste stored on their lands. The International Indigenous Commission described the practice by the U.S. government of encouraging indigenous people to accept nuclear waste on their land in return for monetary compensation.

On the issues of solid wastes and sewage, the Netherlands, supported by Canada and the European Community, proposed source separation of household wastes, developing markets for recyclables, and promoting the use of recyclable materials, particularly packaging. The UK called for the development of "Centers of Excellence" for training in waste management. Finally, all countries supported the proposal that by the year 2000 industrialized countries (and by the year 2020 developing countries) should implement programs to curb per capita waste flows to disposal sites.

The adopted Agenda 21 Action Program stated the overall objective: "within the framework of integrated life cycle management, prevent to the extent possible and minimize the generation of hazardous wastes". Ratification of the Basel and Bamako Conventions was stressed and the program areas were defined as follows: promote waste prevention through "cleaner production;" enhance knowledge and information on economics of prevention of hazardous wastes; promote institutional capacities in hazardous waste management;

The International Indigenous Commission described the practice by the U.S. government of encouraging indigenous people to accept nuclear waste on their land in return for monetary compensation.

strengthen international cooperation in management of transboundary movements of wastes, including monitoring. Education and public awareness, technology development and development of management tools were included in the program.

* * *

WORKING GROUP III

This Working Group is dealing with general principles, the Earth Charter, peaceful resolution of environmental disputes, and legal and institutional changes, especially within the UN. The NGOs are calling for sweeping changes, and the governments are taking a wait-and-see attitude. One area of agreement is to direct the World Bank and related bodies to

devote more of their resources to promoting environmentally sound development. CAPE'92, advocated creation of an enforcement mechanism for international agreements, an independent auditing body to monitor the impacts of UN institutions, and a guarantee of public participation in all international decision-making affecting environment and development.

Institutional Reform

With the new perception of the interconnection of the world's economy and the earth's ecology there are profound implications for the shape of national and international institutions of governance. Fundamental questions are raised about how economic and political decisions are made, and their implications for sustainability and the survival of life itself.

An overwhelming majority of delegations opposed the creation of new institutions and supported increased cooperation between existing ones. Consensus was achieved on the following points: reform of UN institutions is needed; proliferation of institutions at the global level should be avoided; existing international institutions should be adapted to the support of sustain-

able development; UNEP should be strengthened; capacity of institutions at the local and national levels, especially in developing countries should be enhanced; and institutions and organizations outside the UN system, including NGOs, have an important role to play in this process. Nevertheless, it is also clear that up to this point nobody has given enough thought to this issue.

The Earth Charter/Declaration of Principles

The Earth Charter became a very popular issue at PrepCom III. In the end more than 60 countries proposed language for the draft document of principles, which now has a large number of provisions grouped under 17 general headings. Several countries that initially had opposed the idea of an Earth Charter, such as the U.S., shifted position and introduced their own principles.

The U.S., after hard lobbying by the US Citizens Network for UNCED through the Ethics Committee for Development and Environment, accepted the concept of "a new paradigm of interdependence and global responsibility" and drafted a reasonable version of Charter principles. CAPE'92 representatives worked with the U.S. on the recognition of individual rights to information, decision making and other procedures. The U.S. proposal included one very good provision (public participation in decision-making) but also a jarring note: the free market should be seen as a principle of democracy, without any measures to guarantee responsibility for the environmental or social consequences. Ethics is still seen as a marginal issue to the so called "real world" of business-as-usual.

Developing countries said that their issues were ignored by the industrialized north, and after they failed to impose their own version of the Charter, they won a delay in final negotiations until PrepCom IV. Peru, Canada, and Japan made substantial contributions to the Charter draft. Japan stunned everyone by including a call for changes in life style and reduction of resource

Japan stunned everyone by including a call for changes in life style and reduction of resource consumption.

consumption, and the Vatican made sound statements on ethics and Christian responsibility.

PLENARY - CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

With the end of the cold war, priorities should shift from military and defense to environmental security.

"If population doubles again in the next half-century, a five-to-ten times increase in economic activities and a large increase in production will be required to enable them to meet basic needs and minimal aspirations". The implications of these connections are dealt with in plenary sessions.

Plenary sessions (the main formal meetings whose work affects all the Working Groups) were relegated to the last week. This generated bitter frustration and complaints from the developing countries and the NGOs, because the Plenary was supposed to deal with the whole area of sustainable development, poverty and international economy.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar opened the Plenary sessions and emphasized that with the end of the cold war, priorities should shift from military and defense to environmental security.

A resolution was approved requesting the Secretary-General to prepare for PrepCom IV an Agenda 21 Action Program on issues of poverty, sustainability and demographic pressures, health and education. Several NGOs working on these issues were frustrated by the way business was conducted on these matters.

Nevertheless, some progress was achieved by a resolution that made the connections between poverty and environmental degradation, recognizing the pivotal role of women in sustainable development and the role of indigenous peoples in the preservation of traditional knowledge for sustainable development. The resolution also called for the programs developed by Agenda 21 to be consistent with the following priorities: a) international economy; b) development assistance; c) promotion of sustainable livelihoods; d) living conditions of the poor; e) reduction of demographic pressures; f) education, training and awareness

for sustainable development; and g) environmental health aspects of development.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 will be one of the major outputs of UNCED, along with the Earth Charter. It will be a modified version of action plans that have been endorsed by past UN Conferences, with a specific emphasis on implementation. There are three objectives of Agenda 21, besides the plans themselves: a) to integrate the environment and development aspects of each issue; b) to clarify the cross-sectoral aspects of each issue, and c) to identify the linkages between each issue and all the others which affect or are affected by it, and to make their implications clear.

Agenda 21 is intended to include a means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of these decisions after the Conference. Thus, it must provide for a continuing source of information to evaluate and adapt implementation in the next century. One of the most important decisions that must be made during the next PrepCom in New York, will be where in the existing United Nations structure to locate the functions now being performed by the UNCED Secretariat and, consequently, where the structure necessary to oversee the implementation of Agenda 21 will be located.

If there is to be a structure for the functioning of Agenda 21, this will imply a significant institutional capacity in whatever organization is assigned this responsibility. The information storage and processing facilities need a permanent place in the UN, and a body of able professionals and specialists.

Ten subject areas have text already proposed, in the form of "Options for Agenda 21," or Action Plans for Agenda 21, and will continue to be negotiated in PrepCom IV, while new ones will be added. The action plans will consist of 9 Global goals, specific objectives and targets for each subject area (such as oceans or air pollution), plus estimates of costs, and commitment for aid for capacity building, technology transfer and human resource development in developing countries.

Some governments said that the best vehicle to carry out many of the requirements that will emerge next June will be the Global Environment Facility (GEF) administered by the World

Bank, which is currently a tiny and new experimental grant fund. To greatly expand its role and funding base without fundamental reforms (especially public participation in project decisions and evaluations) is disturbing to those who have watched the slow pace of reform at the World Bank.

The introduction of concepts such as "global goals", "global commons" and a "global action agenda" led developing and industrialized countries to different concerns. While some developing countries said that they did not come to the conference to negotiate away "permanent sovereignty over our natural resources", the U.S. said that the "American life style is not for negotiation".

Financial Resources

The difficult issues of financial resources and technology transfer resulted in lengthy discussions between developing and industrialized countries, but remained mostly unresolved. The U.S. opposed any commitment to new and additional financial resources to help developing countries comply with new requirements; instead it stressed private sector participation as the key to environmentally sound development, and focused on technology in the market place.

A number of potential mechanisms for

The U.S. opposed any commitment to new and additional financial resources to help developing countries.

transferring resources were proposed by other countries, including debt relief, debt-for-nature swaps, special drawing rights in the IMF, and a tax on use of the global commons (e.g., a carbon tax).

The Japanese seem to be taking the lead again. Rumor is that the Japanese Government, after

Agenda 21 is also supposed to include agreements on new or strengthened institutions and how to pay for all the increased expenses of developing countries.

PrepCom III offered to host a governmental meeting to discuss new and additional funds for the developing countries, and that they are pledging a significant amount for this purpose.

Human Settlements

The Plenary adopted a decision to consider Human Settlements in all of the other issue areas. The decision notes that human settlements should be seen as a framework for sustainable development, and should be included in discussions of atmosphere, land, coastal areas, freshwater and waste management. A decision was made to ask the General-Secretary to prepare a Action Program for Agenda 21 on the issue of Human Settlements.

Population

The fact is that since 1900 the world's population has multiplied more than three times. It's economy has grown twenty times. In the next 50 years with a continuance of annual growth rates of 3.2 to 4.7 percent, the world's population could reach up to 10 billion people.

Recognizing the intricate relationship between population and economic issues, population implications were accepted and integrated into the Agenda 21 Programs, but not without the

friction of a north-south conflict. Population is now part of several final decision documents:

Population issues were accepted and integrated into the Agenda 21 Program.

1. Earth Charter; 2. Structure of Agenda 21 (which requires the integration of population concerns into all

Agenda 21 documents); 3. A specific recommendation for Agenda 21 to establish the linkages between population and poverty, health and the environment; and 4. The Human Settlements decision calls for harmonizing human-settlement policies with population and urbanization policies.

Poverty

According to the World Priorities Institute, over 1.3 billion people lack access to drinking water; 880 million cannot read or write; 770

"People are poor because they have no power. Any new effort to deal with poverty and promote sustainability must focus on empowerment. Access to information and full partnership in decision-making are key elements. UNCED must support the development of policies, programmes and processes which enable the poor to become powerful."

(NGO Poverty and Affluence Working Group)

million have insufficient food for an active working life, and 800 million live in "absolute poverty", lacking even the most rudimentary necessities. Each year 14 million children, about 10 percent of the number born annually, die of hunger.

According to Ruth Sivard (World Military and Social Expenditures), during the past 40 years economic growth has been concentrated in the north. With 20 percent of the world's population, industrialized countries consume about 80 percent of the world's resources and goods. Tensions around these issues are making UNCED negotiations difficult. But, a consensus emerged among governments, the UNCED Secretariat, and the NGOs, that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of environmental degradation. Several countries stated that the eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Eradication of poverty was introduced by the Secretariat as one of the nine global goals. The Secretariat background paper suggested that poverty should be eradicated in 10 years.

This provoked very emotional reactions from U.S. delegates, who considered this time frame "absolutely unrealistic and impossible, even immoral", and no realistic alternative goal has been agreed as yet.

Southern and European NGOs were deeply involved in poverty issues. Many statements were made by NGOs, and an International Task Group on Poverty was created to continue the work. At the next PrepCom, important decisions must be made on poverty and its relation with the environment.

Transfer of Technology

The developing countries called for establishment of some international mechanism to finance the transfer to them of environmentally sound technology on preferential terms (i.e., low cost). This is a most complex issue since it involves patents, markets, international trade rules, capacity building and international cooperation, among private, public and scientific bodies. A heavily bracketed draft resolution will be negotiated next PrepCom. No agreement has been reached on items like: establishment of appropriate international and national mechanisms to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of environmentally sound technology that will allow developing countries to make the transition to sustainable development; purchasing patent licenses on commercial terms for their transfer to developing countries on non-commercial terms; capacity building; and the support of regional and national programs of scientific research, dissemination of information and technology development.

Sustainability, Economy, Integrated Economic-Environmental National Accounting and Economic Instruments

Although the south had experienced economic growth during the 1960s and 1970s, during the 1980s the situation in many developing countries changed dramatically for the worse, both economically and ecologically. Population growth outpaced economic growth and 80 percent of these countries suffered falls in per capita income. Terms of trade also deteriorated, with commodity prices becoming increasingly unstable, while industrial country market economies became more protectionists, and aid funds were stagnated. Increasingly short-term goals took the place of long-term planning for development and growth.

Trade was a center of discussions among NGOs, with many calling for "green" reforms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). However, the developing countries are more concerned that strong environmental measures could be used against them as barriers to trade.

On this whole set of issues there is a general sense that the economic system works

against sustainability, but no agreements yet on what to do about it. Brazil's environment minister, Jose Lutzenberger, made a strong case for abolishing the terms "developed" and "developing" countries, because the form of development in most industrialized countries is not sustainable, and cannot be extended to the entire world.

The countries requested the Secretary-General to continue work on these issues and to prepare and submit to PrepCom IV Proposals for Action for Agenda 21 on sustainability, international economy, integrated economic-environmental accounting and economic instruments.

* * *

Whether or not agreements are signed in Rio, UNCED cannot be a success unless a new awareness and a firm purpose emerges at the governmental level to move mankind off its present suicidal course, and new forms of economics and international relations are established on a basis of sustainability, participation, cooperation and interdependence.

* * *

PrepCom IV

PrepCom IV will take place in New York from March 2 to April 3. Meetings may continue through weekends and evenings. However, considering the magnitude of the issues still to be negotiated, the 5 weeks may be too short. Rumors are already flying that negotiating sessions will be set up in Rio during the period prior UNCED.

PrepCom IV will see the end of the rhetorical stage and the sharpening of negotiations. Most of the attention will be focused on positions of the U.S., since it has taken many apparently inflexible positions, which fail to confront the real problems facing the planet. The U.S. approach is to continue business as usual, and the government seems determined not to look forward. However some analysts see this attitude as a strategic move on the part of the U.S., suggesting it does not want to fix positions too early, so that it may maintain leverage for negotiating positions. Another possibility is that this is simply a tactic to leave the major dramatic announcements of important agreements for the last moment, so in Rio, the U.S. President gains the credit for saving the world.

PrepCom IV will see the end of the rhetorical stage and the sharpening of negotiations.

Toward New York

In New York all the crucial issues must still be negotiated in order to design Action Plans for Agenda 21. The following are some of the major subject areas:

- Definition of an Earth Charter and implementation programs adequately addressing fundamental values, the eco-industrial revolution, and necessary changes of behavior for all;
- Establishment of global goals;
- Reorientation of priorities for Agenda 21 toward development and economic adjustments;
- Identification of mechanisms for reversing the outflows of financial resources from developing countries and ensuring their access to the new and additional resources they will require to incorporate the environmental dimension into their own development;
- Design of new economic models for assessing risk, especially when possible outcomes are irreversible;
- Commitment to changing international and national systems of subsidies and penalties which motivate economic behavior, to ensure that they provide strong incentives for sustainability;

and changes in national accounts, to reflect the real values of the environment and resources;

- Identification of ways to make patterns of trade more equitable and the greening of independent organizations in the UN system, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), possible;
- The means to ensure food security;
- Transition to patterns of production and consumption in the industrialized countries which will drastically reduce their disproportionate contribution to deterioration of the earth's environment and depletion of non-renewable and renewable resources;
- Agreement on a statement of forest principles that joins the responsibilities of all countries toward all forests;
- Changing of patterns of energy use worldwide, ensuring availability of energy supplies under conditions that will safe-guard the environment and reduce risks of climate change and global warming;
- Ensure equitable access to, and use of, global commons by all nations under conditions that will provide for their protection;
- The reversal of the destruction of renewable resources, soil, forests, biological and genetic resources;
- The design of mechanisms and the determination of provisions for monitoring enforcement and compensation of environmental losses, damages and use of resources;
- The redefinition of the role of NGOs and local participation, and greater technical and scientific participation in diplomacy;
- The rise of women to an equal status of partnership;
- Securing of the rights of future generations;
- The outlining of a program for eradication of the structural roots of poverty and its consequent impact on the environment;
- The redefinition of security, both national and international;
- Redefinition of traditional concepts of national sovereignty.

* * *

Parallel Negotiations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Given the serious threat of the greenhouse effect and climate change, in December 1990, the UN General Assembly established an autonomous Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Convention on Climate Change under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The objective is the negotiation of an "effective" treaty containing legally binding commitments. This negotiation is separated from the UNCED but is intended to be completed and signed in Rio in June along with the Earth Charter and Agenda 21.

The first two sessions dealt mostly with procedure and critical analysis, but very little negotiation. However, some trends were already emerging during the second meeting in Chantilly, Virginia (U.S.), last spring. The major obstacle to the negotiating process became the U.S. resistance to targets and timetables in the reduction of greenhouse gases, to new and additional funds for the transition to be made by developing countries, and to technology transfers.

The third session took place in Nairobi, Kenya, September 9-20, 1991. Some negotiation started, which left the U.S. isolated from the other industrialized countries because of its continued opposition to any specific targets and timetables limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse emissions. According to a summary prepared by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), two of the closest allies of the U.S., Japan and the UK, moved closer to the Europeans who were defending a position for the stabilization of CO₂ emissions by the end of the century.

The U.S. position is the stumbling block, but not all European countries are making a

Some negotiation started to take place which left the U.S. isolated from the other industrialized countries because of its continued opposition to any specific targets and timetables limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse emissions.

"CAN called for at least a 20% reduction in energy related CO₂ below 1988 levels by the year 2000 by industrialized country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)."

serious call for cuts in emissions beyond stabilization of CO₂. The Climate Action Network (CAN), a transnational NGO, has called for at least a 20% reduction in energy related CO₂ below 1988 levels by the year 2000 by industrialized country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Two negotiating sessions on climate change will still take place before the next PrepCom that might impact UNCED success, one on December 9-20, 1991, in Geneva, and the other is scheduled for New York on February 18-28, 1992, just before PrepCom IV.

Biodiversity Convention

Similar to climate change, biodiversity also gained the status of a separate negotiation for a Convention. The September/October preparatory committee took

place in Geneva, with more positive results than the Climate Change negotiations have ever had. A revised draft text will be the basis for negotiation for the next meeting in Geneva, November 25-December 2, which might come to some conclusion by the last meet-

The September/October preparatory committee ended in Geneva, with more positive results than the Climate Change negotiations have ever had.

ing in May 1992, in Nairobi.

Although it was said that the "participants worked in an impressive harmony," the very complex problems still have points of discord to be resolved. The most difficult issues are: fair distribution of rights to and benefits from biodiversity and biotechnology, technical and scientific cooperation, and exchange of information. Far from being

resolved are other issues concerning intellectual property rights and access to and transfer of technology. Nevertheless, there is hope that a convention on biodiversity and biotechnology will be ready to be signed in Rio. Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of UNEP, appealed to delegates to not use the lack of comprehensive information as an excuse for policy procrastination. He emphasized that "in the majority of the scientific community the imminence of the extinction problem is undeniable." This message sounded like a direct appeal to the United States that has been calling for further study as an excuse to avoid agreeing to specific targets and timetables in these separate negotiations on Climate Change and biodiversity as well as in UNCED itself.

Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of UNEP, appealed to delegates to not use the lack of comprehensive information as an excuse for policy procrastination.

Highlights of the General Assembly

■ On November 18-19th, the Secretariat of UNCED and the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for Climate Change introduced their progress reports to the General Assembly of the 46th session with hopeful statements. No major changes were brought up by them or the countries. The government statements of response were general and rhetorical.

■ Major concerns were expressed by the Secretariat and by several countries about the little time left and the amount of work still to do; financial resources for sustainable development are still not resolved; more time is needed for negotiations on the development side of UNCED; and more money to help southern countries participate in negotiations.

◆ Delegates seemed better informed and educated on environment and climate change in general. More commitment toward UNCED goals was evident.

■ Many countries expressed their perception of UNCED as opening a new era at the UN. This is the first time an integral approach is being taken, leading to new forms of problem solving and cooperation. A call was made by many for a new approach to negotiations for the next PrepCom - faster, more transparent and more responsible towards the planet. Maurice Strong suggested that Ministers of State come to New York to expedite the pace of negotiations.

■ The G77 reaffirmed their need for new and additional resources, technology transfer and "differentiated responsibility", which means they have relatively less responsibility for past causes of pollution problems than the industrialized countries. Their statement also called on the industrialized countries to take responsibility for the greenhouse gases and their present excessive emissions of pollutants.

■ Rumors are that the G77 block is preparing a proposal for daily plenary meetings at PrepCom IV to allow enough time for adequate negotiations on sustainable development to take place this time, unlike in Geneva. A related rumor was that Tunisia was lobbying for NGOs to be excluded from the Plenary meetings, since they would be negotiation sessions, not just for speeches. It seems that Brazil would block such a suggestion. The G77 also complained that they have been pressed to take the burden of international conservation, to allow the north to keep its unsustainable consumption patterns. The G77 applauded the inclusion in the agenda of trade, poverty, and international economy.

■ The EC community (via the Netherlands) took the blame and responsibility for many global problems and acknowledged the need for more financial resources. The EC also called for partnership, equity and trust.

■ The Philippines reasserted an old principle of patriarchy "that nature is there to serve man" and not the other way around, which certainly puts the environment in its place!

■ The Holy See (Vatican) made a very solid technical statement, focused on climate change and called for global responsibility and stewardship for the Earth.

■ The importance of the role of the NGOs was reaffirmed by Strong (General Secretary of UNCED), Zammit Cutajar, and Ripert (Secretary and Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations respectively), and many countries among the 40 or

so that spoke on UNCED and climate change. Decisions made about NGO participation by the last PrepComs were applauded.

■ Concern for lack of a proposal for new institutional arrangements was expressed by Strong, the EC and some other countries.

■ Many developing countries pledged their commitment to UNCED goals and reported efforts their countries are making to comply with the new concepts and demands. More Southern countries reported on plans to create environmental ministries.

■ Argentina and Colombia stated that progress on the negotiations for climate change was not enough and that the General Assembly should authorize additional meetings for next year. More assessment on the responsibility of industrial countries is needed they said, and more studies are needed on how much emissions will be allowed, and by whom, in the future.

■ The US said that successful technology cooperation would require a sound economic policy environment based on an efficient market system; an understanding by each country of its resources, capacities and needs; a sound decision-making process; and information arrangements that would let individuals and Governments know what was available and on what terms. The US is still committed to the negotiation of a free-standing convention on forests, "a convention for all forests, tropical, boreal and temperate" is urgently needed, they said. In general the US approach to technology cooperation was more positive, acknowledging the fundamental importance of this issue.

THE BUSINESS CHARTER

Last April, 700 business leaders adopted a program of environmental policies and a "Business Charter," at the Second World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM II), in Rotterdam. On that occasion, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Secretary-General, Jean Charles Rouher said that "no one in business today can afford to be uninformed about the key environmental issues addressed by business leaders at WICEM II."

The rethoric at the conference dealt with market forces, world trade, structural changes,

environmental management, communications and technology transfer. A poll concluded during the meeting showed that 77 percent of the respondents supported the statement that "A stringent voluntary code of conduct among multi-national companies would be good for the environment and the economy."

The Business Charter declares that "A versatile and dynamic business sector is the most effective driving force for sustainable development, which can best be achieved by working within the framework of the market economy, and adapting it to reflect environmental concerns more appropriately." According to the Canadian newspaper "Tribute... to the Earth Summit", sustainable development was broadly defined at that conference as "development which satisfies today's needs without depriving future generations."

Highlights of the Business Charter:

- to provide information about environmental performance to employees, shareholders, governmental authorities and the general public;
- to contribute to educational programs that promote sustainable development;
- to launch an industry initiative on environmental education;
- to remove artificial barriers to trade and to phase out subsidy policies that are hindering sustainable development;

NGO PARTICIPATION AND DYNAMICS

The numbers of accredited NGOs increased dramatically during PrepCom III, although not all of those present in Geneva actually participated in the official meetings. Before the PrepCom opened, different networks of NGOs held their own preparatory and strategy sessions, and a lobbying workshop. An important process taking place during the PrepCom was a series of dialogues between NGOs of the North and the South. This promoted some new alliances but also distracted many NGOs from a focus on UNCED and the government negotiations. Eastern European NGOs were present in more significant numbers. Open meetings outside the negotiating

rooms between NGOs and governments became a common affair.

The type of participation NGOs will be able to have in PrepCom IV is still in question since most of the New York PrepCom will consist of informal meetings. The Chairman of the PrepCom, Ambassador Tommy Koh, from Singapore, told the NGOs he is working on the issue but is finding it difficult to break through the resistance of the governments to NGOs' presence at the informal meetings. We have heard that NGOs will also be kept out of the delegates' lounge area, a key lobbying site, because the delegates were fed up with the invasion of "strange looking people in their territory".

NGOs Preparations

UNCED is a catalyst for new alliances and NGO networks worldwide. In several countries new national networks and forums were established to deal with UNCED (i.e., U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil) which may survive after June to form a national level NGO policy voice on environment and development. Meetings for NGO preparations for UNCED are being held in all the five regions of the planet, in addition to international gatherings of women (Miami), youth (Costa Rica) and indigenous people (Malaysia). A major culminating conference will take place in Paris in December 91, organized by the Environment

UNCED is a catalyst for new alliances and NGO networks worldwide.

Liaison Centre of Nairobi and paid for by the French government. It is intended to enable NGOs from around the world to reach consensus on major issues and adopt common positions for final UNCED lobbying.

Three documents are to be produced:

1) "Roots For The Future", a Compendium of People's Organizations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges, composed of three parts: a) "Our Diversity Is Our Richness"; b) "Consultations On People's Participation In Environmentally Sustainable Development"; c) "People's Organizations' Positions On Environment And Development Issues".

2) "Justice Between Peoples - Justice Between Generations", Synthesis of People's Organizations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges, composed of three parts: a) "Human

Solidarity - The Mother of All Transformations"; b) "People's Voices"; c) "Is Anyone Listening?"

3) "People's Action Plan For Environment And Development".

The last will be debated and adopted by the more than 800 NGOs meeting in Paris.

This conference will address issues of environment and development from the perspective of the activist NGOs and social movements.

Then in June 1992, among all the events to take place in Rio, one will be the "NGO/Social Movement Gathering," expected to be the biggest meeting devoted to policy. This conference will address issues of environment and development from the perspective of the activist NGOs and social movements.

The 17 member coordinating group to organize the meeting was appointed from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Europe, indigenous people, international NGOs networks such as the Asian and Pacific Peoples Environment Network, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, and the Brazilian NGO Forum. The agenda for this meeting includes development of NGO and social movements' strategies for the post-UNCED period, such as a plan for monitoring agreements and increasing citizens' capacities for action. NGOs will also unveil one or more alternative agreements of their own, to show what the governments should have achieved in UNCED. Barbara Bramble/NWF, was appointed to represent the U.S. in the coordinating group.

One of the most important long-term shifts in the UN process is the acceptance of the role of NGOs in the UNCED

The UN needs to find a way of working more closely with peoples' organizations, especially the non-profit ones that focus on the common good as opposed to private interests.

meetings and PrepComs. Several NGOs are working with the Secretariat on a consultative basis. NGO papers have been introduced as official documents, and the NGOs can participate in formal/public meetings, speaking on the floor just like the country delegates.

There is no doubt that progress was made on this issue, but was it enough? Most NGO don't think so. As mentioned above, NGOs presence as observers in the informal meetings is still left to the Chair's discretion. We will have to go a long way before peoples' participation in the decision-making process is ensured, locally and internationally. The state delegates still see themselves as the only privileged representatives of their countries, and look with distrust upon NGO presence.

The participants in the Stockholm Initiative (April' 91, meeting of 32 leading statesmen and women called the Stockholm Initiative on Global Security and Governance), argue that the way to reform the UN and other international institutions is, firstly, for the organization to set up an independent International Commission on Global Governance. The UN needs to find a way of working more closely with peoples' organizations, especially the non-profit ones that focus on the common good, as opposed to private interests. President Gorbachev proposed a "World Consultative Council" and an "Assembly of Public Organizations". Others are advocating a directly elected Second Chamber in the United Nations.

NGOs Accreditation

All NGOs that want to be accredited to participate in any remaining part of UNCED, including the official meeting in Rio, should send their applications to the UNCED NGO liaison office, in Switzerland by February 21.

So far, no limits on numbers of NGOs have been established. The accreditation applications must be acted upon by the governments, so PrepCom IV will be the last chance to be accredited for Rio. There is no need to actually attend a PrepCom to receive accreditation.

No decisions have been made about how many NGOs will be able to attend the official meeting in Rio, nor how they will be selected. The NGOs which are accredited during the PrepComs

probably have the best chance to get access to the official conference site (which is many miles from the city of Rio). In Geneva, NGOs proposed that all accredited groups have the same status, with a system of rotation to determine who could attend the official meeting each day. This would avoid the creation of "second class NGOs" permanently barred from the official conference. Decision on this issue will be made by the General Assembly of the UN in December in New York.

by Angela Harkavy
at NWF, 1400, 16th St. NW 5th floor,
Washington, D.C. 20015 USA
Tel:(202)979 6609, Fax:(202)797 5486
Home tel:(703)425 0741
Email - en.nwfip or en.sacre

I gratefully acknowledge the editing work, input and advice given by Barbara Bramble, Director of the International Affairs Department of National Wildlife Federation.

Resources:

PrepCom III, A Compilation of the Four Weekly Survey Synopses, by Langston James (Kimo) and others

A & D Files - UNCED Secretariat

Reports from the Alliance of Northern People for Environment & Development

Econet - Several online conferences

The Earth Summit - UNCED Secretariat

World Goodwill Newsletter

NGOs papers distributed at PreCom III

The Report of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, for the GA of the 46th session

Network 92, by the Center of Our Common Future

The numerous and friendly chats at the lounge in Geneva with delegates

The daily NGOs strategy meetings in Geneva

THE EARTH CHARTER

PREAMBLE:

We, the peoples of the world and the representatives of the nations, understand that the Earth is a unique, whole, and interdependent system. In the face of our grave planetary crisis, we are conscious that many of our past perceptions and present global relationships are no longer adequate. Therefore, we declare these principles to recover the Earth's integrity, to secure the future of life, and to teach ourselves and our children that whatever we humans do to the web of life, we do to ourselves.

PRINCIPLES:

- I. **Planetary Unity** – The Earth, with its diverse life forms, is a functioning whole. We have the inescapable obligation to respect all life and Earth's eco-systems.
- II. **Global Interdependence** – The Earth community, of which humankind is a part, functions in interrelated cycles, processes, and systems upon which life depends. This reality forms a basis for all social, cultural, scientific, economic, legal, and political arrangements.
- III. **Human Community** – Regardless of diverse expressions, languages and cultures, humanity is one. All individuals have the fundamental rights to freedom, equality and an environment adequate for their health and well-being. Individuals, peoples, and nations must act in partnership to ensure the integrity and health of the planet.
- IV. **Sustainable Development** – Authentic progress in the human community must foster a sustainable and regenerative Earth order. Only within this framework can individuals realize their unique potential, both for themselves and in service to the common good.
- V. **Universal Responsibility** – The human capacity for learning about and making decisions on the environment requires all individuals, peoples, business enterprises, institutions, and governments to act as guardians of the Earth. All must live in balance with nature to ensure the continuity and quality of life for future generations.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The principles set forth in the present Charter shall be reflected in the law and practice of each state, as well as at the international level.

I. Social

- A. The elements of each culture which contribute towards a united, global, and harmonious society should be fostered. Cultures based on over-consumption of the world's resources must adapt to reflect ecological realities.
- B. Local groups have the right to participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives and their regions. The achievement of sustainable development requires the full recognition of the importance of indigenous cultures.
- C. Women shall be accorded full partnership in all fields of human endeavor. Such a partnership is fundamental to society's sustainability.
- D. Education should be available to all individuals in all nations. Such education should promote the consciousness of the common heritage of humanity and the integral connection between humankind and the larger world of nature.
- E. Information on activities and products which alter the natural environment must be made available in terms comprehensible to the public at large.
- F. International organizations and member states should make concerted efforts to slow the dramatic growth in world population by encouraging fair standards of living for all and making family planning services available to all on a voluntary basis.
- G. Institutions at all levels of society must adopt practical forms of problem solving at the most basic, workable level to remain true to the requirements of universal responsibility and participation.

II. Scientific

- A. Constant efforts shall be made to increase knowledge of environmental and socio-cultural conditions by scientific research and to disseminate such knowledge without restriction.
- B. The worldwide monitoring system to collect scientific data on the Earth's atmosphere and environment should be expanded by pooling the resources of scientists of all nations.
- C. Environmental risks, and the state of the planet, should be openly discussed and clear information provided to the public about potential hazards and risks.
- D. All means must be employed to avoid irreversible harm to the environment.

III. Economic

- A. Economic indicators which reflect full allocation of natural and human resources must serve as the basis of all international institutional lending practices, national accounting systems, and business and trade accounts.
- B. In economic planning preference must be given to long-term sustainable development over short-term gains and special interests.
- C. Priority must be given to the alleviation of poverty and the attendant harm that poverty brings to people and the environment.
- D. The principles of the free market, particularly when they are exercised by multinational corporations, must be exercised within the context of a regulatory framework designed to protect a sustainable and just global society.
- E. The capacity of the Earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained, restored or improved.
- F. The non-renewable resources of the Earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment are shared by all humankind.
- G. All nations equitably share the responsibility for ensuring a healthy environment. The ability of developing countries to fulfill this responsibility shall be taken into account.
- H. Wealth and progress must be democratically redefined in light of this Earth Charter.

IV. Legal/Political

- A. Far reaching legal and institutional changes, including new global institutions, supported by universally agreed upon enforceable laws, must be implemented to achieve a sustainable and just global society.
- B. The strengthening of the United Nations, its constituent organizations, and multi-lateral institutions is necessary to ensure peace, social equity, environmental security and economic well-being for all the world's peoples.
- C. No nation shall plead sovereign immunity in light of overriding global emergencies or catastrophes.

V. Global Security

- A. International Institutions and nations should regard environmental concerns as a pre-eminent global security issue.
- B. Global and regional environmental issues must be an integral part of the agenda and operations of the Security Council of the United Nations, and of the national security agencies of all nations.
- C. Precautionary measures to protect global environmental security should be supported by all nations and local governments, even in the absence of scientific certainty.
- D. States shall use natural resources of the global commons in a safe, reasonable, and equitable manner.
- E. Consultation must replace confrontation and domination in order to gain the cooperation of the family of nations in devising and implementing measures to preserve the Earth's ecological balance. Nations should drastically reduce military expenditures and allocate those funds into environmental security and sustainable global development.
- F. All nations shall report immediately environmental accidents of a transnational nature.
- G. Nations and the appropriate international bodies share a joint responsibility to respond to transnational environmental disasters with full assistance. Nations and international institutions must guarantee that all victims of such transnational environmental accidents receive non-discriminatory treatment.
- H. Social structures and institutions at all levels must be dedicated to achieving harmony among people, nations and the Earth.

ADOPTION: The overwhelming challenge of the global crisis compels us to exercise responsible care for our endangered planet. Each person, public and private entity, and national and international body, has a duty to act in accordance with the provisions of the present Charter and shall strive to ensure that the objectives and requirements of the present Charter are met. Therefore, we, the undersigned peoples of the Earth and the representatives of the nations, hereby adopt this Earth Charter.

To comment, contact:

PETER ADRIANCE, BAHAI'S OF THE U.S., 1606 NEW HAMPSHIRE AV. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009 202-265-8830 FAX: 202-265-6012 ECoNET: BAHAIUSA
ANGELA HARKAVY, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, 1400 16TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 202-797-6609 FAX: 202-797-5486 ECoNET: NWFIP

US Citizens Network for UNCED

To obtain information about UNCED (The Earth Summit)

Prepared by Angela Harkavy
Co-chair International Committee

Newsletters:

- NGLS - E & D File** - United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, published by Geneva (quite dedicated to UNCED). NGLS, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or 2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1103, N.Y. NY 10017 US
- Earth Summit News** - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. No.1, 160 route de Florissant - Case Postale 80 CH - 1231 Conches, Switzerland
tel:(41-22)789 1676 - Fax (41-22)-789-3536 Email - cdp!unced
- Network 92** - Published by the Center for Our Common Future and the IFC. Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Paquis CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland Tel:(41-22)732 7117
Fax: 738 5046 Email: Green Net:commonfuture
- Cross Currents** - Produced by the Conference of NGOs in consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO) ,Planning Committee for UNCED, c/o C.P. 50, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
- ECO Newsletter - Climate Change** - Media Natura - Editor Chris BLigh
21 Tower Str., London, WC2H, UK Tel:(+44)71 240 2936
Fax: (+44) 71 240 2291 Email: gn:medianatura
Eletronic copies of Eco can be obtained from: igc:larris
tel:(403) 852-4057 (Canada)
- US Citizens Network Newsletter** - 300 Broadway, #39 San Francisco, CA 94133 tel: (415)956 6161
Fax:(415)956 0241, Email:en.citizensnet
- Earth Summit Update** - Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 122 C Street, N.W. Suite 700, Washington D.C., 20001 T:(202)628 1400

Other:

- IFC - International Facilitation Committee:** Facilitates information relative to UNCED and all the independent sectors, supporting NGO's participate on UNCED. Jose Soto, c/o Centre for Our Common Future 52, Rue de Paquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. T: (41-22) 732 7117, Fax: 738 5046 Email: :commonfuture
- UNCED NGO Liaison Office:** Yolanda Kakabadse - Focal point for relations with non- governmental organizations. Accreditation and all other NGOs activities to UNCED. 160 route de Florissant - Case Postale 80, CH 1231 Conches, Switzerland Tel:(41 22)789 1676 Fax (41 22)789 3536 Email - cdp!unced
- One World Group of Broadcasters:** Massive Tv effort in support of the Earth Summit, Mr. Seelmann - Eggebert, NDR Gazellenkamp 57, 200 Hamburg 54, Fax (040)560 4579
- US UNCED Coordination Center,** State Department, 722 Jackson Pl., NW, Washington D.C. 20503 T:(202)395 3110, Fax: 395 1036

Electronic Conferences:

En.unced.general - en.unced.documents - en.unced.news - en.unced.schedule - en.unced.infox -
en.unced.topics - en.unced.readit - en.unced.dialogue - en.unced.agenda21 - en.unced.earthcharter -
en.climate - en.energy - en.alerts - cnu.steering (US Citizens Network for the UNCED), cnu.thics