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Brazil
SPECIAL EDITION



National Round Table Review

Canada's National Newsletter on Sustainable Development
Winter 1992

THE EARTH SUMMIT THIRTEEN ESSAYS ON UNCED

To help stimulate discussion and focus debate among Canadians, this issue of the NRT Review is pleased to bring together 13 original essays on UNCED 92. As **Jim MacNeill** points out in an interview in this issue, "how can we multiply food calories by four, energy use by six, and income by eight, without pushing the planet beyond certain critical thresholds that we are now beginning to understand." The answer to this question will determine the fate of the Earth. The Earth Summit or UNCED will lay the groundwork for how the global village will react to that challenge.

Prime Minister Mulroney expresses the view that there is a global dimension to environmental problems and that UNCED is the opportunity for Countries to move forward together to resolve these problems. **Environment Minister Jean Charest** states that "The Earth Summit is a once-in-a generation chance for a

new beginning; an opportunity we cannot afford to miss." **Monique Landry**, writing on behalf of CIDA has reaffirmed the Canadian commitment to technology transfer and the continued efforts to decrease the gap between rich countries and poor. **External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall** believes we will come out of UNCED with a "new set of principles to guide us in our relations with our planet."

David Hallman's article on the Climate Treaty points out that a Treaty may not be signed due to disagreements with the USA over emission levels. **Robert Hornung of Friends of the Earth** states in his article that "UNCED has allowed non-governmental organizations in the North and the South to interact extensively and has brought Canadian communities committed to social change closer together." **Johannah Bernstein** points out that "UNCED has

provided NGOs with some considerable opportunities to ensure that environment and development issues are accorded their rightful place in the mainstream of the international political process". **Ann Dale** writes on the progress of the World Women's Congress. The WWC believes that UNCED must recognize the fundamental roots of environmental degradation: poverty, over population and the disenfranchisement of half the world's population - women. **Art Hanson**, the President of the IISD warns that "the bottom line message at UNCED is likely to be a warning about mutual vulnerability unless action for sustainable development is taken." His thoughts are echoed by **Leone Pippard** who writes about UNCED and biodiversity: "the world is being impoverished by the loss and degradation of its most fundamental living resources--its genes, species, habitats, and ecosystems at rates that far exceed natural extinctions."

Elizabeth May of Cultural Survival points out that Canada is in a position to effect positive change at UNCED but that this will take leadership - leadership which she believes Canada can provide. **Angus Archer of the United Nations Association in Canada** believes "UNCED can already be declared a success and the results of UNCED will make an indelible mark on a new improved United Nations."

The National Round Table will meet in Plenary on February 20-21 to review recommendations of its Foreign Policy Committee which, if approved, will form the basis of advice to the Prime Minister.

Dan Donovan, Editor, NRT Review

Prospects and Pitfalls An Interview with Jim MacNeill

National Round Table: What is UNCED?

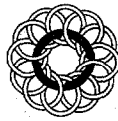
Jim MacNeill: It's many things. But, basically, it's the first world conference on both environment and development. It takes place in Rio in June of this year, exactly 20 years after the landmark Stockholm Conference, which put environment on the global agenda. The official intergovernmental meeting will be the largest ever held and will last two weeks. During the final two days, world leaders will assemble in an Earth Summit, also the largest ever held. There will also be an Earth Forum, a parallel non-governmental conference that is expected to attract thousands. And there will be a number of other events, many of them outside of Rio: for example, a Science Conference, an International Exhibition of Environmental Technology, a World Forum of Cities, an International Journalists meeting.

NRT: What will all these people do?

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The Green Plan and the Global Plan: Canada and the Earth Summit

By Jean Charest, Minister of the Environment

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and the Development, the Earth Summit, will convene in Rio in June. It will do so, in part, because this country helped to make it happen. Canada was one of the original co-sponsors of the UN resolution calling for this Conference. Since then we have invested considerable sums of money and effort in preparation. We have done so not only to support our own role but to help other countries play their full part.

Let me explain why:

We support this truly global conference of leaders because we believe that nothing less is needed. The dangers and challenges we face cannot be solved except through a coordinated world effort. More important, we support the Earth Summit because the hour is late. Given the nature of the danger and the complexity of the issues to be resolved, it should have happened long before this.

Even those who may have been complacent are beginning to concede the urgency of the environmental threat. A current example is the thinning of the ozone layer which is this planet's only shield from dangerous ultraviolet radiation. The buildup of the gases which damage the layer has gone so far that I recently had to advise Canadians that it would be prudent not to let children spend too much time in the sun. The latest evidence has brought about, for the first time, unanimous support in the U.S. Senate for corrective action.

Nothing could be more obvious than the common interest of humanity in preserving our planetary home. As an astronaut put it some

years ago, looking back at this blue ball in the cold sterility of space, "we have no other place to go."

The dangers may be clear-cut -- the solutions are anything but. The truth is that we also need development. For the countries of the Third World, that does not mean a second television set or four new lanes on a superhighway. Development means enough calories to sustain life. Development means a first dirt road to a village. Development means survival.

So the challenge is to reconcile indispensable goals. To do this, the nations of the world have to do more than respond to specific problems. We have to break out of mindsets and misconceptions that have been engrained in our cultures for generations. And we have to act together. This work will have to be undertaken by all countries and in all countries. The global effort will be the sum of a multitude of national efforts.

Canada's national effort is the \$3 billion Green Plan, now starting its second year. Our support of the Earth Summit is a natural and absolutely indispensable extension of this work.

I can think of two current illustrations of this relationship. One is our recently-announced \$85 million research program to reduce the levels of uncertainty about global warming. Technically, this is "national" work. In reality it is part of the global undertaking. We cannot see this problem whole by looking at it through a narrowly Canadian lens.

So we are working within UNCED to mobilize a world program in this area. The outcome is

not certain yet. But we hope to come out of Rio with a binding international convention on Climate Change.

Another example: in February we announced a \$14 million Green Plan project under which Canadian universities will join forces to study and exchange information on toxic chemicals and their environmental impacts. We know, going in, that to do this job effectively we will need not just a Canadian network but a world network. This item too is on the UNCED agenda.

To sum it up: although Canada is a generous country, our support for UNCED serves our enlightened self interest. It serves the interest we share with all countries, north and south, rich and poor, in preserving our common home. The Green Plan is part of the big plan.

Finally -- and perhaps most important -- we support the Earth Summit because it can succeed. With the end of the Cold War the UN has its first real chance to mount an effective world response. That opening could not have come along at a better time. If this Conference succeeds, it will put the world on the fundamentally new path we need so desperately to take. Canada sees The Earth Summit as a once-in-a-generation chance for a new beginning; an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER



Canada's environment has shaped how Canadians see themselves and how the world sees Canada. We have a special responsibility to ensure that future generations of Canadians have an environment that will equally inspire and sustain them. Our responsibility also extends, beyond our boundaries, to the rest of the world which expects us to protect and cherish our heritage on behalf of all humanity. Through our Green Plan, we have made sustainable development our objective. With perseverance and dedication, I know that we will reach this objective.

Boundaries do not shield us from the outside world. Protecting the world's environment is essential to the protection of our own environment. Indeed, many threats to Canada's air, water and soil, are global in scope and can only be addressed effectively through international cooperation. It is for this reason that Canada has stressed the importance of the environment at successive economic summits

and has participated actively and constructively in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The stakes are high at UNCED. It has the potential to be the cornerstone of international cooperation on environment and development for the next generation. But UNCED will also pose a formidable challenge. Priorities and expectations are as diverse as the countries attending. The conference will raise some of the most intractable problems facing the international community. To meet this challenge, we must devise pragmatic and constructive solutions to the issues of technology transfer, finance and institutional reform. If we are to create a consensus of benefit to all countries, all will have to remember that UNCED is not an end but a new beginning. Many years of work lie ahead.

Canada has important interests at play in UNCED -- for example the management of marine living resources and forests, and the economic activities which they sustain and which provide a livelihood to so many Canadi-

ans, including the aboriginal peoples. In adopting the Green Plan, the Government sent a clear signal that it is committed to the sustainable development of these resources. Canada's work at UNCED will be consistent with this commitment.

As a member of the G-7, the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Organization of American States, Canada is in a strong position to contribute to UNCED. As steward of one of the world's most favoured lands, and home to people from every corner of the globe, Canada will play a constructive role in the resolution of the great environment and development challenges the world faces.





A COMMENT ON UNCED: FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held this June in Rio de Janeiro, comes at a critical time in the evolution of our planet.

Our protective ozone shield is disintegrating; rainforests in all corners of the earth are rapidly disappearing; and our relentless emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, threatens us all with ecological catastrophe. At the same time, the majority of humanity is being driven even further into poverty, unable to obtain even the basic necessities for survival.

These problems will not and cannot be resolved in Rio this summer. But UNCED does have the potential to serve as a launch pad for processes that would bring humanity together over the next decade in a common effort to save ourselves and our environment.

Such an outcome is far from guaranteed, however, because the one thing most conspicuously absent from the UNCED process is a sense of urgency. The UNCED discussions have been overwhelmed by procedural concerns, and it has become increasingly clear that the political will required to make UNCED a success in action terms is simply not there.

The crowning achievement of UNCED was to be the signing of an international Framework Convention on Climate Change that

would demonstrate that countries were ready to take action against the threat posed by global warming. While a convention is likely to be signed, it is unlikely to force that vast majority of industrialized countries to do any more than what they have already publicly agreed to do - stabilize carbon dioxide emissions.

Such an agreement is clearly inadequate. Scientists at the Second World Climate Conference in 1990 told governments that staving off dramatic climate change would require a 60 percent reduction in international greenhouse gas emissions. Tragically, many countries, including Canada, are using the lack of action at the international level as an excuse for inaction at home.

UNCED will also fail to meet many of its other original objectives. An international convention on forests has become a statement of principles. Negotiations on a convention to protect biodiversity have focused on promoting biotechnology, and development issues have had a difficult time even securing a place on the agenda. When they have been discussed, the North-South debate seems unchanged from 20 years ago.

This is not to say that UNCED is not doing some valuable things. It is forcing government and industry to formulate a public response to our environmental crisis. The Rio meeting will also

serve to heighten the profile of environmental issues in Canada at a time when these have been submerged by economic realities and constitutional wrangling.

More importantly though, UNCED has allowed non-governmental organizations in the North and the South to interact extensively and has brought Canadian communities committed to social change closer together.

These new linkages have the potential to become the foundation of a broadly based movement of peoples' organizations. Such a movement will have a critical role in the months and years ahead to ensure that governments develop the political will required to make UNCED more than a one shot photo opportunity where style triumphs over substance.

Much work needs to be done if our planet is to be saved. UNCED can only begin the healing. It is up to all of us to ensure that Rio is only a beginning, not an end.

Robert Hornung, Acting Executive Director, Friends of the Earth



"I can tell you one thing: if this conference is not a success it will be a dramatic failure. I will not allow it to become a quiet failure. The worst possible result would be a quiet failure that masquerades as a success."

Maurice Strong, Secretary-General, UNCED



WORKING TOWARD AGENDA 21: CIDA HELPS CANADA ACHIEVE UNCED GOALS

In March 1992, Canadian representatives will meet in New York City with their counterparts from around the world to discuss the latest draft of Agenda 21. This will be the fourth and final preparatory meeting before the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) takes place in June. Canada, along with other countries, is determined to make the Agenda 21 document a workable one.

Agenda 21, which is expected to be one of the most crucial outcomes of UNCED, is a comprehensive action plan for the twenty-first century on all areas affecting the relationship between environment and development. The most recent draft -- 39 chapters consisting of roughly 500 pages -- has been revised to give more prominence to the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development and the role of the major interest groups, in order to give environmental and development matters more equitable consideration.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), along with Environment Canada and External Affairs, have been leading the national effort to prepare Canada's official negotiating position for the June conference. The Departments of Fisheries; Forestry; Energy, Mines and Resources; and Industry, Science and Technology are also involved.

Finding a solution we can all live with

For its part, CIDA has been grappling for almost 25 years with many of the same issues that UNCED will address. Foremost among them are the complex relationships among poverty, popula-

tion, environment and development. Sustainable development will not be achieved as long as half the world lives in overwhelming economic deprivation.

The struggle to end poverty in the Third World and close the economic gap between developed and developing nations raises another concern -- one that is central to CIDA's work and one that has emerged as among the most controversial and pivotal issues facing UNCED -- how to eliminate poverty without creating new sources of pollution.

Developing countries want industrialized nations, which they hold responsible for the lion's share of the world's pollution, to set up special funds to help them to implement Agenda 21. These proposals come at a time when industrial countries are grappling with serious economic problems at home and within the former East Bloc countries. Canada is working as a bridge builder between the needs of developing countries and the constraints of the industrialized nations to find a mutually-acceptable solution.

CIDA's priorities

Canada, as a major aid donor, technology importer and exporter, and supporter of the multilateral system, has a stake in all three of the key implementation issues: financial assistance, technological cooperation with developing countries, and reform of international institutions. CIDA has been instrumental in formulating Canada's position on these important national priorities, which are destined to emerge as critical points of debate at UNCED.

Other CIDA priorities to be discussed at UNCED are the role of women in environmental manage-

ment, sectoral action plans for forests, desertification and land resources, freshwater, and urban environment.

The federal government has 24 interdepartmental working groups formulating Canada's negotiating positions on various topics. CIDA chairs three of them -- poverty, population and health; land resources and desertification; and institutional change. CIDA officials also serve on a number of other committees, including those dealing with freshwater issues, forestry, women, and technological cooperation.

Involving Canadians in the Earth Summit

An important step now is to make Canadians more aware of the importance of UNCED and to ensure that the interests of provincial governments and special interest groups, such as indigenous peoples, women, labour, as well as environment and development organizations, are taken into consideration in developing Canada's negotiating position for UNCED. UNCED is a turning point in how the world deals with global environmental and development issues. It comes at a critical point in our planet's survival and holds out hope for a new beginning in the way we address these concerns. I invite all Canadians who care about our common future to join forces in this unique opportunity to meet the challenge of sustainable development.

Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development



TO RIO AND BEYOND



For over a year now, a major force has been mobilizing to prepare for the United Nations Conference on En-

vironment and Development - UNCED. The first session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee opened in August of 1990 in Nairobi, Kenya, charged, in the words of UNCED's host, President Fernando Collor de Mello, with elaborating and proposing strategies and measures destined to counter and reverse the process of environmental degradation towards sustainable development and ecological balance.

At the heart of UNCED's agenda is the nexus of environment and development. As we draw nearer to Rio, the complexity of the task we have undertaken reveals itself. And yet, we must take a comprehensive approach if we are to institutionalize the link between environmental degradation and economic and social decision-making. There are twenty-six areas of action in Agenda 21, and two separate ne-

gotiations timed to conclude for Rio. Underlying this very large agenda is the principle of consensus - not just of governments but of all sectors of society in all nations of the world. How can we marshal sufficient forces to achieve our self-imposed goals?

My answer is that we already have. At the risk - a slight one in my view - of slowing the momentum that UNCED has created or of diminishing our very real fear of what humanity has done to itself, I would contend that we have already realized significant gains from the UNCED process. Quite simply, the world will never be the same again. International relations will never be the same. Already the agendas of governments in their dealings with one another are radically different; already the domestic agendas of government have changed.

Canada has been a creative and dynamic element in this phenomenon. As a nation, we have always been conscious of how privileged we are in the wealth and beauty of our natural resources; equally, we know how we depend on other nations for our well-being. Small wonder

then that Canada finds itself a capable actor in UNCED, itself founded on mutual interdependence and the need to act together to ensure humanity's survival.

This is not to say that we will have solved the world's environmental problems by the end of UNCED. We will not wake up on June 13, 1992, without global poverty, without global warming, and without losing three species or more every single day. But what we will have is a new set of principles to guide us in our relations with our planet and an action plan for the next century. What we already have is the will to make these documents - the Earth Charter and Agenda 21 - a meaningful part of our lives, individually, in our communities, nationally and globally.

Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs



"If the 1990s are to be the turnaround decade, then youth cannot wait until tomorrow to change the world: we must take effective action and leadership today. To the Earth Summit, we must bring the sense of urgency we feel, and demand the accountability of world leaders to ourselves and future generations."

Désirée McGraw, a 22 year old from Canada, was appointed by Maurice Strong as one of two UNCED Youth Ambassadors Worldwide.



Cultural Survival (Canada)

CANADA AND THE EARTH SUMMIT

As we grow ever closer to June, 1992 and the Earth Summit, media and other observers are increasingly asking whether the conference can be a success. Secretary General Maurice Strong has pledged that if the conference does not succeed, it must be a "dramatic failure".

Surely, it will be the worst possible outcome if the conference achieves little or nothing, but appears to have taken great strides to save the planetary environment and improve the lives of the people who depend upon it. A photo opportunity dressed up as a success may lull the public in the industrialized world into believing the problems have been solved. The one thing we cannot afford in the race to save the planet is complacency. Some people, for instance, become complacent believing that by putting out their "blue box" they've done their bit for the environment. The Rio conference could become a political "blue box". Similarly, back in the mid-1970's when the United States eliminated CFC's aerosol uses, the public was lulled into believing the ozone layer had been saved. Decades later we can regret profoundly that action on that front was so long in coming. While environmentalists applaud even small gestures, they are only significant if they lead to real change. Our gestures must be more than token, and our actions meaningful.

The agenda for the conference promised action on a number of fronts. At the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in Nairobi (August, 1990), there were grumblings that the process was "convention happy". Legally binding conventions were being proposed to deal with the threats of climate change, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. The conventions were to be the substantive accomplishments of the conference. Other

products would be an Earth Charter and an action agenda for the 21st Century, called "Agenda 21". The Earth Charter and Agenda 21 would be nice words, hopefully beyond empty rhetoric, but without the force of law found in conventions.

Unfortunately, the negotiations for the conventions have been difficult. The forest convention was the first to fall and is now being negotiated as an agreed statement of principles. The biodiversity convention is proceeding, but troubles ecologists with its strong economic and biotechnology elements. The climate change convention, arguably the single most significant potential achievement of UNCED, is still the subject of strong disagreements and intransigent posturing. The United States, in particular, is threatening the success of the convention by being the only industrialized country firmly against any targets or deadlines for carbon reduction.

As well as the convention difficulties, the conference threatens to break down on North/South lines over issues of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to make sustainable development possible.

Given the obstacles on the road to Rio, what can be done at this late date to ensure real success? Canada could play a major role in the necessary political resuscitation of the process. For what is needed at this stage is for the political level to kick into gear. Diplomats, bureaucrats and technocrats have slogged through the first year and a half of preparations. Despite good intentions and commitment from some countries, noticeably including Canada, progress has been slow. Watching meetings of the Preparatory Committee has had a lot of the same appeal as watching paint dry. We simply do not have time for the

usual United Nations style diplomacy to rally the required political will to make the conference a success.

Short of a miraculous change of many hearts as they head to Rio, the only thing that could change the outcome of the Earth Summit is for a serious round of high level political lobbying and negotiating to intervene. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is probably the ideal candidate to take on this daunting task. Mulroney has a strong international reputation and has supported the Earth Summit from the beginning -- including offering Canada as a host country back in 1988. Canada's role throughout the preparations has laid solid groundwork for our role as a North/South bridge. And with the United States in an election year, Brian Mulroney has a better chance than most G-7 leaders in putting friendly pressure on George Bush.

Somebody (read G-7 leader) will have to step out ahead of the pack and start calling for emergency support to make Earth Summit accomplish what it is capable of accomplishing. Failure to grasp this opportunity borders on global criminal negligence. Our chances for reversing the devastating trends of environmental degradation and human suffering may never be as strong as they will be in Rio. Any political leader who understands this and puts aside domestic distractions for long enough to do something for planetary survival will have the thanks not only of present and future generations of Canadians, but of the peoples of the world.

*Elizabeth E. May
National Representative
Sierra Club of Canada*



(Interview with Jim MacNeill continued)

JWM: The official Conference really provides a common agenda for them all. In my view, the main question underlying the Summit is clear. With the world's population on the way to 10 billion over the next 40 years, how can we: multiply food calories by four, energy use by six, and income by, say, eight (much more evenly distributed, of course), without pushing the planet beyond certain critical thresholds that we are only now beginning to understand? Or, to put it another way, how can growth on scale needed to meet future needs and aspirations be managed on a basis that is ecologically, economically and socially sustainable? It is no exaggeration to say that our answers to this question will determine the fate of the Earth as a decent home for all who live on it -- and within the life times of people under thirty.

NRT: That was the Brundtland question, I believe. But the General Assembly has transformed it into an action agenda for the Conference?

JWM: That's right. Maybe I can summarize the agenda in four points: an Earth Charter, Agenda 21, Conventions and three "make or break" issues.

An Earth Charter is being negotiated. Sounds fuzzy, perhaps, but it's not. New legal norms are needed to guide the behaviour of states in relation to one another and in relation to the global commons -- the oceans, the atmosphere, outer space -- during the coming century. Nations in Stockholm agreed on two such norms. They were embodied in the Stockholm Declaration, a landmark document that benefitted enormously from strong Canadian political leadership. Other norms have since been adopted by Canada and other nations in various conventions and in the OECD. The Earth Charter should update and advance these norms in a manner similar to that proposed by the Brundtland Commission. But it won't be easy.

NRT: Agenda 21 is a huge undertaking, is it not?

JWM: Yes, it's an "Agenda for the 21st Century" and it's the centrepiece of Rio. It will address each of the most critical issues in turn -- population and consumption, energy, land and food, desertification and soil loss, forests and deforestation, fresh water and ocean pollution, trade in hazardous wastes, and so on. It will also include the broader issues such as reversing interna-

How can we: multiply food calories by four, energy use by six, and income by, say, eight (much more evenly distributed, of course), without pushing the planet beyond certain critical thresholds that we are only now beginning to understand?

tional financial flows from the poor to the rich, trade access, technology transfer, empowerment of women, and strengthening the capacity of developing country institutions to act on the issues. It seems that nothing has been

left out. As originally conceived, Agenda 21 would set out an internationally agreed work program for each of these issues, including performance targets. Maurice Strong, the Canadian Secretary General, would like to see a cost estimate for each of the targets and an initial assignment of respon-

sibility for implementation, with the last seven years of this century being the first phase of implementation.

NRT: What about the conventions?

JWM: Initially, there were three conventions and it was hoped that each would be ready for signature in Rio. Now there are two: one to limit global warming and sea level rise, and another to protect biodiversity and reduce the tragic loss of species. The third, to halt net deforestation, was launched in 1990 at the G7 meeting in Houston, on the initiative of Chancellor Kohl and with the support of Canada. It has now been postponed in favour of a simple declaration of sound principles of forest management.

There are three other issues that, in my view and that of many others, could make or break the conference. The most critical concerns the question of financial resources: reversing the huge flow of capital from the South to the North and providing funds to assist developing countries discharge any obligations they might assume under Agenda 21 and/or under any new conventions. The second concerns technology transfer -- how best to enable developing countries to obtain the technologies needed for sustainable development. And the third concerns reform of some

of our key international institutions.

NRT: Why is it important that Rio succeeds?

JWM: The world's population may double in next 40 years -- our children could live with 10 billion neighbours. That means rapid growth to enable them to meet their basic needs -- jobs, food, clothing, housing, transport -- and to meet their aspirations for a good and prosperous life. Aspirations, you know, are far more important than needs. When they are thwarted on a major scale, the inevitable result is conflict and war, as we can see every night on television. But the rapid growth needed over



the next 40 years cannot be sustained if it simply extends certain dominant forms of development in energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other sectors. These are degrading the Earth's environment at an accelerating pace. They are systematically depleting our basic stocks of ecological capital -- our soils, forests, species, waters, even our climate. If they continue, development on the scale needed to meet the aspirations of 10 billion will not be possible. Take energy, for example. If nations were to employ current forms of energy development -- if it's "business-as-usual" in the energy field -- energy supply would have to increase by a factor of 5, just to bring developing countries with their present populations up to the level of consumption now prevailing in the industrialized world. Critical life-support systems would collapse long before we reached those levels.

If Rio succeeds, governments, with the growing support of industry and society at large, will have agreed to gradually reverse the policies that are now driving unsustainable forms of development. If they do, our children, and their neighbours in other lands, will have a better opportunity for a good and prosperous life. If Rio fails, and it might, it won't mean the end of the world. But it will mean a more dangerous world. Take the climate change convention, for example. If we fail to agree on measures to limit global warming and sea-level rise, our children and the global economies in which they pursue their lives will have to learn to adapt to a warmer world and shrinking coastlines. Some low-lying island states and coastal areas that could have made it, won't. There will be more ecological catastrophes, more ecological refugees, more poverty, disease and death, and more conflict. The costs -- not just the economic, but the social and political costs -- could be catastrophic. By the time voter awareness and outrage reach levels high enough to force recalcitrant governments to act, it could be too late for many peoples and nations. Large parts of the planet will be an ecological wasteland and the momentum driving future increases in temperatures and sea levels may be unstoppable.

NRT: So, what are the prospects?

JWM: Very mixed at the moment. If success was only a function of solid work, there would be no question. I have been involved in a number of international conferences and I have never seen one as earnestly prepared. The Secretariat's work has been excellent. Under Secretary-General Maurice Strong (Canadians should

be proud of him), it is doing an absolutely superb job under the most difficult conditions. The same can be said for many delegations, including Canada's under our Ambassador John Bell and Arthur Campeau.

But the same can't be said for many governments. To be fair, some leaders have been preoccupied with other things like the Gulf, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and the Middle East. Others -- and this is obviously true

of Canada's leaders -- have been preoccupied with the unity of their nation states. So they have not yet given the Earth Summit the political attention it must have if it is to

The days of Sunday School environmental politics have passed. The choices are hard. Suddenly, there are votes to be lost as well as gained.

succeed.

It is also true that the agenda raises some very difficult issues. Politicians everywhere are having heart spasms in trying to come to grips with them. They can no longer be disposed of with one or two rousing motherhood speeches and exhortations to go out and do good. The days of Sunday School environmental politics have passed. The choices are hard. Suddenly, there are votes to be lost as well as gained. When you marry environment with economic development, as Rio does, it's a new ball game.

There have been three Preparatory Meetings to date, open to all countries. None of them has benefitted from the direction and leadership of ministers. Ministers simply haven't been there. That's a real contrast to the preparations for Stockholm, Vancouver, and other conferences. And, in spite of the best efforts of dedicated public servants, it shows.

The fourth and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee will take place

in New York in March and April. It is essential, in my view, that political leaders get involved. If they don't, if they just show up in Rio expecting to pick up the credit for success, they will be in for a shock. They will get the blame for a failure -- with CNN watching.

NRT: At this stage, obviously, they can't deal with everything. What, in your view, are the critical issues?

JWM: I'd put finance as number one. Technology transfer, institutional reform, the conventions and parts of Agenda 21 are also in trouble. They are important but I feel that the differences on these questions would be easier to resolve if the deadlock on financial resources could be broken.

Governments have agreed to give priority to financial resources when they meet in New York in March.



Maurice Strong has just announced the Secretariat's estimate of annual cost of halting global environmental destruction. He says that the rich countries will have to contribute up to \$125 billion a year. Clearly, we are not going to get there overnight.

There are some recent hopeful signs of movement coming from the World Bank. And Japan seems to be ready to open its purse very wide -- perhaps as wide as it did for the Gulf War. I understand that no final decision has been made but that the government is prepared to consider a contribution of US\$ 10- 14 billion. Key countries in the EC and EFTA seem prepared to be supportive. But most other governments feel strapped by economic uncertainty and recession. They also feel the pressure of new priorities in Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union.

This, by the way, is a real concern to the South. With everyone transfixed by events in Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union, developing countries are afraid that their needs will once again be pushed back down the global agenda. If they feel that is happening, I expect they will react strongly. We could then have a serious North-South confrontation in Rio.

NRT: Can Canada play a credible role on this issue?

JWM: Yes, it could. The Canadian delegation is highly regarded, as are Ambassador John Bell and Arthur Campeau personally. It has been trying with some success to initiate and facilitate negotiations on this issue. But its future role depends on political direction and support from the government. In short, it needs some large financial chips to enter credibly into the game. Without them, or with just a few token marbles of derisory size, we will have no credibility in the negotiations. In my view, the Canadian government should be prepared to offer at least \$100 million as an initial first year contribution to the financial package for Rio. That's a minimum. And it should commit itself to a significant annual increase thereafter. That I think would place the Canadian delegation in a position where it could enter credibility into the negotiations at the next Prep Com. Canada could also then help to ensure that the management arrangements for the financial package are sound.

NRT: Are there other areas in which Canada could have an impact?

In my view, the Canadian government should be prepared to offer at least \$100 million as an initial first year contribution to the financial package for Rio.

Most Canadians don't know that the federal government spends over one hundred times more taxpayers dollars in ways that encourage greater consumption of fossil fuels than in ways to encourage more efficient use .

JWM: If Canada is prepared to offer a significant first year contribution to the Rio package, and commit itself to a significant annual increase, Canada could

have an impact in several areas -- and, in the process, do itself a favour. Technology transfer, for example. Canada could bring some much-needed realism to this debate, which is hung up on the clichés of the past two

decades. Canadian industry and labour stand to gain a lot in the rapidly expanding market for environmentally sound technologies -- which covers the whole spectrum of development. But we will lose out to Japan and the European Community if we don't devise some clear policies that are of mutual advantage to industry in Canada and developing countries, and back those policies with adequate financial resources.

You know, a transition to more sustainable forms of development will only occur if industry gets behind it. And, more good news, in country after country, industry, is getting behind it. In Canada, the BCNI has been leading a significant initiative. Internationally, the Business Council for Sustainable Development, is leading another. It includes 50 CEOs from every continent and was set up to advise Maurice Strong. They are not debating whether they can reconcile environment with their bottom line -- that debate is over -- they are debating how best to do it.

NRT: What about the climate convention?

JWM: Yes, indeed. Our scientists, senior public servants and diplomats have played a leading role in the debate on global warming and the climate convention. Remember the 1988 Toronto Conference which got agreement on the 20 percent reduction target for 2005?

But, here again, our future role depends on political direction and support from the government. Most of all, it depends on getting our own house in order.

Canada, as you know, is one of the international bad boys on fossil fuel emissions of carbon dioxide. We are among the top energy guzzlers of the world, producing more CO2 per capita or per unit of GNP than almost any other nation. It's frankly embarrassing to those of us who carry the Maple Leaf in international fora. It's not an accident, you know, it is mainly a direct result of public policy. Most Canadians don't know that the federal government spends over one hundred times more taxpayers dollars in ways that encourage greater consumption of



fossil fuels than in ways to encourage more efficient use of energy. The consequences are almost entirely negative for technological innovation, jobs, trade and international competitiveness. And, of course, it means that the taxpayers spend over one hundred times more to promote global warming (and acid rain) than to reduce it. This makes no sense. We should take the opportunity presented by Rio to reverse these figures. And a proportion of the savings could be used to finance Canada's contribution to Rio.

NRT: You mentioned industries and they obviously will have an important say in this. Ken Mcready, CEO of TransAlta Utilities, claims that a significant tax on carbon emissions in Canada might benefit his company. If a carbon tax on Canadian emission can be offset by the amount of carbon emissions saved or fixed elsewhere, TransAlta would be provided with an incentive to transfer "clean coal technology" at reduced cost to developing nations such as China and India. Mcready argues that a carbon tax would be good for the environment, since carbon emissions would be reduced; good for developing nations since they have -- at reduced cost -- access to the latest in efficiency technology; good for Canadian aid programs since they would share resources with a private sector partner; and good for business since its technological edge and export position would be enhanced by greater market share. What do you think of this analysis.?

JWM: I think Ken Mcready is right on. I have often said that if I were a CEO in North America, I would be very concerned about those who counsel our governments to adopt a lagging rather than a leading posture on global warming--and on carbon taxes. Europe and Japan know better. During the 70s and 80s, their industry - especially Japanese, Swedish and German industry --

pressed by high world oil prices and, in some cases, tight emission standards -- invented the industrial technologies of the 90s. Those technologies were energy and resource efficient. They were environmentally efficient. And they were competitive. They stole market share in almost every sector -- from automobiles to pulp and paper, food processing, the service industries, communications -- you name it. Today, when North American industry wants to retool to become competitive, it has to look to European and Japanese know-how and technologies -- and it has to pay for them. It is very interesting, I think, that the European Community is now considering a carbon tax as a part of its economic and competitiveness strategy. Would that the Canadian government could think in those terms.

NRT: There has been much talk recently about a "new world order." Is there potential for accommodating sustainable development as a cornerstone of such an order.?

JWM: Yes. In fact, without it, any "new world order" could lead to increasing disorder and conflict. It is very unfortunate that President Bush has failed to emphasize threats to the peace and security of nations stemming from environmental breakdown -- and the desire to gain or protect access to scarce resources. These are growing at a frightening pace, especially in the developing world, and many have their roots in inequity, poverty and disempowerment. A year ago, the oil wars began. The water wars may not be far behind -- and then conflicts stemming from the consequences of soil loss, forest loss, higher global temperatures and rising sea levels. Any new world order must be based on a broader concept of security that addresses these threats, preferably by promoting a global transition to sustainable forms of development. That is the real goal of Rio.



If we don't tackle global environmental problems in Rio, then I ask "When will we do it?" Nobody can say for sure what is too late, but it is very hard to envisage another opportunity like the one we will have in Rio next year. The stakes are high. The evidence is strongly persuasive that we must take fundamental action. I have to believe that the leaders of the world will rise to that responsibility.

Maurice Strong, Secretary-General, UNCED



United
Nations
Association
in Canada

WHITHER UNCED: WILL IT HELP SHAPE A NEW UN?

"The UN was not erected just to settle disputes, but as a forum for co-operation whose potential has not been exploited."

Javier Perez de Cuellar - PrepCom III in Geneva

The confluence of events is breathtaking. Here we have the biggest political event of 1992, if not the decade, being held in Rio de Janeiro in June with over 100 Heads of State, 6,000 delegates and some 10-15,000 non-governmental participants. On the table are the two major issues of the planet, now seen by both North and South as interrelated, environment and development. In the same year we have the United Nations Organization, with a new leader, coping with the influx of up to twenty new members (from 160 to an almost unmanageable 180), now set on bureaucratic if not fundamental structural reforms in order to face its new centre-stage role in world affairs.

First, let's look at UNCED. What will it produce?

Clearly it will not produce all the answers, not even all the answers it was originally expected to produce from that hurriedly cobbled together resolution 44/228 approved by the General Assembly in the closing hours of 1989. A Gulf War, a stubborn worldwide recession, and the dramatic political changes in Eastern Europe have intervened to complicate Maurice Strong's already winding road to Rio. UNCED '92 is now seen as but the first step in a much longer process. There will most probably be an UNCED II, if not an UNCED III, building upon the gains of the Earth Summit this June.

Being an inveterate optimist, I am inclined to think that those gains will be significant, indeed that UNCED can already be declared a success. And the results of UNCED will make an indelible

mark on a new improved United Nations. In this short space, I want to deal with only three aspects of this success - institutions, resources and public participation. All three are intrinsically interconnected.

On the institution front nobody, least of all Canada, is pushing for any big new UN agency, so often the singular and lackluster result of UN mega-conferences of the 70's and 80's. In the parsimonious 90's, reform of existing institutions is preferable to the creation of new ones. As the Canadian Delegation has said, "What is needed is an evolution, not a revolution in institutions." What is likely is a UN Commission on Sustainable Development, probably under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, possibly with regular high-level representation, and very likely with the continuance of the present UNCED Secretariat to service it. Some rationalization of the role of both UNEP (environment) and UNDP (development) is probable, with donors like Canada insisting that UNEP play a sharper, more narrowly-defined policy role and urging UNDP to add a sustainable (environmental) component to all its development projects. In addition, the new Global Environment Facility will be a vehicle for new resource transfers from the North to the South and with its relatively modest \$1.4 billion start-up funds, it is clearly a "go". The obvious worry for the South is the GEF's parent body, the weighted voting World Bank.

How about the obvious need for new massive resources? Where will they come from?

The documents just released for PrepCom IV (New York, March 1992) put flesh on the bones of Maurice Strong's grand plan "Agenda 21". Each of the sectoral documents envisages new resource needs of millions, if not billions of dollars ... the wish list of all wish lists! Yet even in these stringent and uncertain times, there is some reason to be hopeful that the urgent messages of UNCED are being heard. Corporate CEO's, at a confidential briefing organized by the United Nations Association in Canada in Toronto late last year, learned for the first time of an initiative in Tokyo on the part of former Prime Minister Takeshita and chairman of the Kiedaren (Council of Industries) to raise "substantial" (ie. roughly equivalent to Japan's \$11 billion contribution to the Gulf War) new resources. By all accounts, the European Community is standing by with a reasonable contribution. Canada is now talking about the least it would take to achieve "the Rio bargain". The stumbling block is still the United States, 1992 being, alas, an American election year. To quote Jennifer Metzger in UNA-USA's Interdependent, "The U.S. stands alone in rejecting categorically the call of developing countries for 'new additional' resources to assist them in integrating the environment into development planning."

A third aspect of a Rio success, and perhaps the most long lasting of all, is the already evident public participation in the preparatory process. The UNCED Secretariat, with the concurrence of most governments, has opened up the pre-



paratory process in a dramatic way. It plans to capitalize on this with an unprecedented media blitz in April and May. Never again will a major UN conference be planned by governments alone. This affects not only NGOs (see Johannah Bernstein's article in this newsletter), but also the private sector, research institutes, business leaders, and mass-movement "peoples" organizations. A most significant collaboration has begun between these extra-governmental groups in both the North

and the South, a collaboration which will be consummated in Rio, and will carry on after.

Institutionally, there are numerous ideas for an "Earth Council", or a parallel and permanent "peoples" commission on sustainable development. Even if all else at UNCED falls short of expectations, the momentum of this kind of governmental/non-governmental collaboration is awesome. It is an intriguing analogy, but the experiment of the Round-Tables in Canada, at the national, provincial

and municipal levels, has been a very relevant forerunner to this kind of multi-stakeholder collaboration at the international level.

Angus Archer is currently the Executive Director of the United Nations Association in Canada. Earlier, as Coordinator of the UNs Non-Governmental Liaison Service (N.Y.), he was involved in the NGO parallel activities around most of the UN mega-conferences of the 1970's and 80's.

BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

A positive new phenomenon emerging as part of the sustainable development thrust is the proliferation of business environmental management associations. The first of these associations originated in 1987, in Germany, under the acronym B.A.U.M. (Bundesdeutscher Arbeitskreis Für Umweltbewusstes Management).

The success of this initiative is evident as comparable associations have been established in Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Brazil, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong, and the United States. Not only do these associations include some of the world's largest corporations, they are also characterized by small and medium size enterprises, which are seen as vital to economic prosperity, as well as being significant contributors to environmental degradation.

Typical association membership includes companies such as Shell, IBM, IKEA, Digital Equipment Corporation, the World Wildlife Fund, Nestle, Volvo, Mobil Oil, Toyota, and Dow Chemical. Despite differences in history and composition, the main goals of

these associations are similar. Each strives to encourage the environmental responsibility of companies and institutions while promoting integrated environmental management. They also seek to further the development of integrated systems of environmental business management through cost-shared research. In contrast to non-members, companies benefit through organized information exchanges on environmental data and the latest management techniques.

Building on the success of B.A.U.M. and its prototypes, the International Network for Environmental Management (INEM) was established in 1991 as a network of associations for environmental management. Created by B.A.U.M., ELM Denmark, B.A.U.M. Swenska, B.A.U.M. Austria, and TREE (United Kingdom), INEM was established to, among other things, ensure that information is disseminated on vital environmental management know-how and comparable activities being undertaken in the public sector.

INEM acts as a link and a facilitator. It presents the case for inte-

grated environmental management to business, the media, the general public, and international fora such as the International Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations.

As a non-profit organization, INEM is in a position to respond to business requests in any given country. For example, it could act as a catalyst to assist the private sector in promoting sound integrated environmental management and in developing policies to promote sustainable development. It offers its expertise free of charge (expenses excepted) to the industries making the request.

The growth in environmental management associations represents a fundamental shift in decision making practices. Is it time for Canada to join the international community and take the initiative at home?

For more information on INEM and environmental management associations, please contact Mr. Troy Davis, Hamburg Germany. tel: (49) 4103-84019; fax (49) 4103-13699.

*Philippe Clement/NRT
Secretariat*



CLIMATE TREATY IN JEOPARDY

by David Hallman

One of the key ingredients of UNCED is supposed to be the signing of a World Climate Convention to address the problem of global warming. It is quite possible that this guest of honour may not show up.

The International Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC) has held four sessions since February 1991, the next one being in New York this February. The biggest obstacle in the negotiations is the singular opposition of the United States to a convention that includes specific targets and schedules for the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions. At the 4th Session of the INC in Geneva, December 9-20/91, tensions were clearly evident between the position of the United States (supported by Saudia Arabia and Kuwait) and that of all other industrialized countries.

The developing countries remain united in their insistence that the industrialized nations recognize their responsibility as the precipitators of global warming, since it is the North that has produced more than 80% of the anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions over the past 150 years.

All industrialized nations, other than the United States, acknowledge this responsibility and support the inclusion of specific targets and schedules. The European Community has gone the furthest. EC members support, as a minimum, the stabilization of carbon dioxide emissions at 1990

levels by the year 2000. Germany has committed itself to a 25% - 30% reduction of 1987 CO₂ levels by 2005. Several other countries have also committed themselves to emission reductions (The Netherlands, Denmark, New Zealand, Austria).

Canada's present commitment is only to stabilize emissions at 1990 levels by 2000. At a recent meeting with Canadian church leaders concerned about global warming, Environment Minister Jean Charest acknowledged that it will be a challenge for Canada to meet this target, much less move beyond it to actual reductions. He anticipates a lively public debate in Canada about scenarios for reducing our emission of greenhouse gases, which, by necessity, means much greater energy efficiency, conservation, and use of alternative sources to the traditional fossil fuels.

The United States continues to be the key to what will happen on the climate treaty. Canadian church representatives travelled to Washington at the end of January to meet with US church and political leaders to press them on the need for a shift in the US position. In meetings with American political leaders as well as staff of the Canadian Embassy in Washington, no clear consensus emerged as to whether the US Administration was likely to change its position in time for a successful conclusion to the climate treaty negotiations.

Many countries, including Canada, made it clear at the Geneva INC session in December that a treaty without specific targets and schedules would be of little use. But at the same time, they were not anxious to sign a treaty with emission-limitation requirements if the US was not participating because the US represented almost half of the industrialized world's carbon dioxide emissions. Other industrialized countries do not want to place, on their own economies, restrictions that would not apply equally to the huge American economy.

There is some speculation that the US Administration might be waiting until the last possible moment to indicate a preparedness to move. That might happen at the 5th Session of the INC in February or, more likely, at a Ministerial Meeting on the climate conventions scheduled for April. Odds of UNCED having a treaty on climate change to sign are, at this point, not much better than 50-50.

David Hallman is Program Officer for Energy & Environment, for the United Church of Canada. He has been active in much of the Canadian and international work of churches on global warming. He participated as a member of the World Council of Churches monitoring team at INC4 in Geneva and co-ordinated the church leaders' discussion with Environment Minister Charest and the January meetings in Washington.



Striking a bargain at Rio is going to be difficult. All I can tell you is that we can't go on the way we are - and everybody knows it.

Victor Buxton, Environment Canada



WORLD WOMEN'S CONGRESS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Over 1,500 women from 83 countries gathered in Miami, Florida, on November 8, 1991, to help women worldwide participate in the UNCED process. The Congress had three basic objectives. First, to produce a Women's Action Agenda for the decade. Second, to ensure that all governmental and non-governmental delegations to the Earth Summit were gender balanced, so that no delegation had more than sixty percent of either sex. Third, to be a step towards strengthening an international network of women acting to ensure a strong women's voice on all issues pertaining to women and development.

Personal agendas were put aside, in order to find meaningful and immediate solutions to problems plaguing the daily lives of many women around the world - poverty, hunger, health security, and increased access to land ownership. What was so stimulating about this meeting was that, as well as discussing community based issues, global issues such as international trading systems, debt relief, and population control were also addressed.

One of the factors contributing to the tremendous consensus achieved by these 1500 women was the innovative process used by its convenors, led principally by that grand dame of the hats, Bella Alzug. Prior to the convening of the Congress on November 8, 1991, a global assembly was held by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). This assembly was an invitational mix of policy and decision-makers, who addressed specific global issues of water, waste, energy, and environmentally-friendly systems, through the presentation of 218 successful grassroots projects.

These case studies, evaluated from the perspective of replicability, affordability, and visibility, were presented by the women directly involved - over 400 representing 53 countries. Basic findings were that women's role in environmental management for sustainable development had

taken place primarily at the grassroots level, and their concern for the environment was motivated by their desire to improve the quality of life and natural systems. Moreover, the women's perspective recognized the eradication of poverty was central to solving problems of the environment and was linked to wasteful consumption, a major contributor to environmental degradation. Delegates further recognized how essential peace was to an ecologically sound environment.

In addition, too few women had been involved in decision-making with regard to policies, programmes, projects, or funding for the environment, despite the international target of 30% of women in leadership positions by 1995 and equal representation between women and men by the year 2000. Delegates unanimously declared that women's full participation in environmental management was essential to the full realization of sustainable development.

Five recommendations were made by the Global Assembly. It urged the heads of governments to sign binding conventions on climate change and biodiversity; to reach an agreement on principles on the World Forests; to ensure the Earth Charter included both men and women in its rights and obligations; to approve a programme of action on sustainable development in which all sectors of society play an active role; and to ensure that resources and the free flow of environmentally friendly technology was available to men and women to implement Agenda 21.

The Assembly was immediately followed by the World Women's Congress. The plenary session was organized in the form of a tribunal with five prestigious judges from Australia, Guyana, India, Kenya and Sweden presiding. On each day of the plenary, the tribunal heard from a number of expert witnesses, followed by workshops each afternoon. The final day of the Congress was the presentation of a Women's Action Agenda 21 to Maurice Strong, Secretary-Gen-

eral for UNCED and to Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

The Women's Action Agenda rejects the current international system and calls for a paradigm shift. It recognizes the fundamental roots of environmental degradation are poverty and over-population and the disenfranchisement of half the world's population - women. It stresses that, unless these root causes are addressed, sustainable development is a non-starter.

As well, the agenda is cross-sectoral and takes integrated, rather than a traditional sectoral approach to the issues. Focusing on the unique role of women at the grassroots level, it emphasizes the links between environment, development, and the economy, recognizing the special perspective of women for control over reproduction. It also addresses the necessity for the increasing interdependence of nations, versus the current independence of nation states.

The Agenda highlights the need for a code of conduct among governments and a code of ethics for the industrial sector. Delegates argued that protectionist measures nurtured by macro-economic imbalances and inadequate structural adjustments led only to greater debt, further entrenching the poverty of the Third World. The Women's Agenda, therefore, calls for a complete reform of the international trading system, based on greater equity and access to production of world resources, coupled with official debt forgiveness.

The Women's Action Agenda is intended to go far beyond UNCED '92, as another of the Congress' objectives was to create an international women's network dedicated to sustaining the earth. "Rio, said Bella Alzug philosophically, "is just a beginning."

Ann Dale/NRT Secretariat



THE UNCED BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION - WHICH SCENARIO WILL SURFACE? By Leone Pippard

Of the three conventions--forestry, climate change, and biodiversity--that are still being negotiated for the June United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), there is audible optimism in Canada's official negotiating delegation that the convention on biodiversity will be ready for discussion and signing. The Biodiversity Convention is meant to spell out a framework to achieve a balance between conservation and the sustainable use of the world's biodiversity, including its use in biotechnology. It is being negotiated in light of the fact that the world is being impoverished by the loss and degradation of its most fundamental living resources--its genes, species, habitats, and ecosystems at rates that far exceed natural extinctions. This is dangerous as the world's ecological systems are humanity's life-support mechanisms.

There are three possible ways the framework for the Biodiversity Convention could evolve. One way could be a convention that consists simply of a declaration of principles and some good intentions to conserve biodiversity, we'll call this Scenario I. Another way would have the convention include not only principles but also some well defined obligations (Scenario II). Currently, among the most sought-after obligations are that First World countries provide assurances of technology transfer to lesser developed countries; that they provide new and adequate funding to help these same countries meet additional burdens in protecting their biological capital; and that, in every country, there be put in

place economic policies, incentives, and legislation which are compatible with conserving biological diversity. This kind of convention would provide the framework for the development of inventories, action plans, and sharing of data leading up to the signing of subsequent protocols. Finally, the most comprehensive framework would combine the elements of Scenario II with some already-agreed-to-commitments, targets and means spelled out in a parallel protocol which would also be signed (Scenario III).

If the outcome in June is the Scenario I Biodiversity Convention, it should be considered a political failure. This is because it would not only fall far short of the stated mandate of the conference, which is that strategies and mechanisms will be brought forward to implement sustainable development in the twenty first century, but it would also be repeating many of the recommendations and principles that were stated twenty years ago at the United Nations Conference held in Stockholm. Back then, environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of underdevelopment were well known and articulated, and so were the remedies. Hence, to state such items again would simply be demonstrating that nations are continuing the rhetoric without showing any commitment to solving the problems. But, as there appears to be growing recognition in current negotiations that things must be done differently and more equitably, Scenario I Biodiversity Convention is probably not in the picture for UNCED.

In view of the mandate of the Conference, it is Scenario III Biodiversity Convention that should be on the signing table, along with each country's action plan, which would show how they will comply with the convention, including their funding commitment to it. But, currently, it is hard to see how this scenario will surface, as national commitments on conserving biodiversity are in every stage of development, while international arrangements on biotechnology, technology transfer, debt relief, and new funding are still being worked out. Therefore, what seems most likely to appear is Scenario II, a Biodiversity Convention laying out principles and obligations, with protocols to appear later, pending the completion of country studies, action plans, and further intensive negotiations.

Needed is a Third Party Review

This outcome could be considered "a success-still-to-be-realized." To realize it, at the same time the convention is signed, there should be put in place some mechanism to ensure that the identified obligations are implemented in a timely fashion. That is to say, it will not be enough to expect that countries will simply honour their obligations. What would seem to be needed is a kind of third party review. Perhaps, a coalition of non-profit organizations could be formalized to keep the convention signatories on track in realizing their professed goals. This is something the Canadian delegation might consider and raise in the next pre-conference meeting.



Watching for Action on the Homefront

While watching the fate of the UNCED Biodiversity Convention, Canadians should also be keeping a vigilant eye on the homefront to see the following kinds of actions implemented, well before the year 2000, to conserve and restore Canada's biodiversity.

- The acceptance of a two-pronged approach to conserving ecological processes and wildlife, which marries setting aside protected areas to more ecological parameters and sustainable development principles used in land-use planning;
- The presenting of sustainable development budgets by Canadian governments that will show fiscal policies in tune with achieving environmental integration into economic decision-making;
- Completed and accessible biodiversity inventories;
- Extensive monitoring systems that chronicle the impacts of land-use changes on wildlife, habitat quality, and ecological processes;
- Full cost accounting that factors in direct and indirect environmental costs of doing business and which recognizes natural resources as capital to be sustained for the benefit of present and future generations;
- Provision for financial incentives to encourage landowners and developers to maintain the ecological integrity of the land;
- Realignment of resource policies, legislation, and trade agreements to incorporate sustainability objectives;
- Environmental assessment processes strengthened and expanded to ensure that developers conserve the ecological integrity of the land and seascapes;
- Canadian governments committing the resources and laying out plans that will show how Canada will reach the goal of protecting 12 percent of Canada's lands and waters, plus providing annual evaluations of implementation; and,
- Public education programs that increase public understanding about the fragility and functioning of the earth's biosphere and wise-use of resources.

Fortunately, Canadian governments are already showing various degrees of commitment to many of the foregoing action items. But none too soon. In Canada, the endangered species list is still growing (211 species at last tally). What this indicates is that, despite all our actions to date, there is still mounting environmental stress in the Canadian land and seascapes. It is only when the list of endangered species shrinks appreciably that we will know we are on the road to maintaining healthy "eco-systems"...both ecological and economical. That road will be called sustainable development.

Leone Pippard is President of Canadian Ecology Advocates and Member of the NRT.

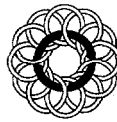


The problem is that the very support systems that keep all living things alive - the air, the water, the soil and biological diversity - are totally unrepresented in our economic system.

Until economics becomes more nature based, it seems to me that the whole planet is going to be destroyed.

What I am terrified of is that people will continue to respond only when they are pushed right against the wall. As far as I am concerned, our backs are already up against the wall and it is very, very late. But I am afraid it is going to take the deaths of many people, especially children before we respond in a serious way.

David Suzuki, Borealis, Fall 1991



"IS ANYBODY LISTENING OUT THERE? THE ROLE OF NGOs [IN UNCED]"

Johannah Bernstein

February 1992

On Passover, Jews ask why this night is different from every other. The answer is found in part in the fact that we eat matzoh instead of bread to symbolize Jewish resourcefulness in the face of the challenge of an oven-less flight from the tyranny of 3000 BC Egypt.

Four months before the Earth Summit, NGOs are asking themselves why this UN Conference is different from every other (viz. Stockholm, Law of the Sea, Disarmament and Development, etc.). While UNCED has not imposed any major dietary restrictions (although many of us are slowly losing our appetites due to overwork and inordinate amounts of stress...) UNCED has provided NGOs with some considerable opportunities to ensure that environment and development issues are accorded their rightful place in the mainstream of the international political process.

Just exactly what are those opportunities; are we, in fact, seizing them; and who is listening?

At the international level, there have been many opportunities indeed. First and foremost, the role of NGOs in the UNCED preparatory process. Never before have NGOs been given such a prominent role. While NGO participation has varied at past UN Conference preparatory processes, the opportunities for NGOs to make written presentations to and orally address the plenary meetings of the UNCED Preparatory Committee and its three Working Groups have been entrenched as the formal rule rather than the odd exception.

As well, NGO lobbying at the "PrepCom" meetings has been actively encouraged and supported. The Delegates' Lounge at the Palais des Nations in Geneva quickly became dubbed as "Working Group Four", where government delegates and NGOs typically would meet to review negotiating positions and to collectively plan strategy around specific issues. A growing number of government delegations have come to see NGOs as a potentially important source of technical expertise to be tapped into and openly relied upon. Indeed, certain "friendly" delegations would often submit their proposals to the scrutiny of certain NGOs for their response before formally tabling at the PrepCom at large.

As well, several governments (Canada included) have taken that good sense one step further and have brought NGO representatives onboard their delegations as official advisors. In fact, many Canadian interventions (dealing with such issues as the importance of traditional knowledge, the relative contributions of poverty and consumption to unsustainable development, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms etc.) were all directly influenced by Canadian NGO input.

And, while the majority of meetings such as the fourth and last PrepCom may be potentially closed to NGOs, sufficient numbers of them have acquired enough political savvy and grasp of the inner working of the negotiating process to successfully move their own policy agendas forward. No doubt, the numbers

of NGOs expected at PrepCom IV will possibly double to approximately 700 (our numbers seem to increase exponentially with each PrepCom). However, with that increase brings the inevitable contingent of NGOs who have never been to a UN Conference, let alone a prepCom, and to whom the notion of "non-papers," "non-meetings" and "bracketed text" seem thoroughly and quite understandably labyrinthian. Nevertheless, despite some rather heated dialogues, NGOs will continue to strive to work in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration and to share resources, be they in the form of technical expertise or mere moral support.

This, of course, brings us to the second important opportunity that UNCED has thrust into the laps of NGOs; namely, the challenge for NGOs from virtually every sector of human endeavour and, indeed, from many countries the world over (including those which did not even exist at the first PrepCom) to overcome our deep-rooted cultural, socio-economic, political, and other differences so as to effectively advance the NGO reform agenda. We cannot and should not be expected to speak with a unified voice on every issue. However, there are several fundamental issues which have arisen at the PrepComs (namely, the North-South split and the seeming lack of integration of environment and development issues) that stand the best chance of resolution through NGO collaboration. In fact, the precedent has already been set. At past PrepComs, on several occasions, NGOs from both North and



South, worked together in the drafting and promotion of joint proposals on such issues as women's issues and poverty with the former having been formally ratified by governments at PrepCom III.

In Canada, NGOs have had numerous opportunities to influence the government's preparatory process. They have been seized and, by and large, the government is listening.

Through the Canadian Participatory Committee for UNCED (CPCU), Canadian NGOs from over 10 different sectors have committed to working collaboratively through advocacy and lobbying, public education and outreach. The CPCU has set up over eighteen issue working groups which parallel those set up by the Federal Government. The primary objective being to feed NGO input, critique government draft negotiating positions, and to transmit concrete ideas. In many

cases, (i.e. forests, the Earth Charter, poverty, institutional reform) the input of the CPCU Working Groups has been directly incorporated into the government's negotiating position for PrepCom IV.

Besides the natural satisfaction of being able to constructively influence that process, perhaps, an even more important result has emanated; namely, a certain relationship of trust between the many members of the CPCU and members of the Canadian Delegation, as well as the members of the government working groups. Of course, fundamental differences of opinion remain on numerous issues (climate change, demilitarization to name but a few) and the CPCU will continue to press for far-reaching changes in government policy. But it is that sense of trust that has kept NGOs at the table.

It is often said that environmental problems do not respect geo-political boundaries. Well,

the same can be said for the conflict-inducing lines that are drawn around governmental/non-governmental relationships. UNCED presents us with a remarkable opportunity to evolve that historical adversarial relationship into one that is built on mutual trust and respect and that actually moves us towards sustainable development. An unrealizable pipe dream, perhaps? I categorically hope not. We all have to stretch ourselves and strive for the seemingly impossible; otherwise, the necessary transition towards sustainable development remains an unrealized dream. We will have lost a critical opportunity (namely, to ensure the survival of this planet and the continuation of the human species) and nobody will have listened.

Johannah Bernstein is an environmentalist lawyer and the national coordinator of the CPCU, which is based in Ottawa.

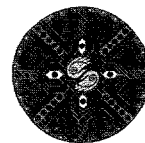
A National Secretariat has been established within Environment Canada to co-ordinate preparations and consultations with Canadians regarding UNCED. The federal government's involvement in UNCED brings together the efforts of more than 20 government departments and agencies. The leadership of this process is shared among Environment Canada, External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Secretariat will provide answers to any questions you may have about UNCED.

To receive copies of any Secretariat publications, or for further information, contact:

*National Secretariat UNCED '92
Environment Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 4th Floor
Hull, Quebec Canada
K1A 0H3
Phone (819) 953-6252
Fax (819) 953-3557*



UNCED and IISD



We speak of global change in a matter of fact manner these days. But the understanding of what is meant by the term depends very much upon individual and national perspectives. Some refer to changes in security arrangements; others to radical shifts in trade, communications, and capital flow, all elements of global competitiveness; yet another focus is the impact of climate change; and certainly the rapid and profound political reshaping of the world is significant. Sustainable development, the key subject of UNCED, is the unifying theme which links all these subjects of global change, now and for future generations. The Earth Summit is taking place at a moment of flux when there is openness to consider new ideas. Indeed, there is a sense of desperate need and urgency. Canadians are not insulated from global problems, but it will serve us well to understand and to work together with those who face far more difficult challenges than our own. The bottom line message at UNCED is likely to be a warning about mutual vulnerability unless action for sustainable development is taken.

UNCED's preparatory meetings (which have included extensive regional and sectoral meetings as well as the PREPCOMs) have not yet specified adequate implementing arrangements or the means for measuring progress regarding the extensive draft agenda of UNCED. This is a major worry since it is vital that UNCED leads to action. The preparatory meet-

ings have been able to focus on capacity building as a critical part of future efforts. This focus recognizes that we are still learning how to carry out sustainable development - in both the developing and industrial regions of the world. After UNCED, we will have to engage in much more research about development and ensure that information transfer takes place effectively and at all levels, locally, nationally, and internationally. Otherwise, we will see a continuation of past practices likely to reinforce unsustainable development.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development, established in 1990, is part of Canada's response to the Brundtland Commission. Our role is to promote sustainable development in decision-making within various sectors and at all levels of society. We have the considerable advantage of defining our work program in parallel with the debate taking place for the Earth Summit. Our approach is to address root causes of unsustainable development patterns; to build capacity to implement sustainable development; and, in general, to treat sustainable development as an investment process. This process considers the linkages of environmental protection and management, economic development, and the well-being of people. And it depends upon building worldwide partnerships and networks for both research and communications.

In the period leading up to UNCED, IISD has actively supported the Secretariat by providing assistance for the preparation of Agenda 21 and for the development of an information system for this comprehensive element of the Earth Summit. In the period after UNCED, we expect to use this knowledge base to advantage in certain of our own program areas; for example, themes such as public policy on sustainable development, trade, and institutional change. We also believe there will be an important monitoring and information exchange role to listen and to learn from local action, and to make available as quickly and broadly as possible information about positive experiences on sustainable development implementation by governments and the private sector. IISD expects to play a significant role in developing the necessary information systems. In cooperation with other independent institutes, we also may play a larger role in fostering necessary institutional changes and capacity-building. Finally, IISD expects to inform Canadians and others of the ongoing challenges and opportunities we face in coming to grips with the various facets of global change. UNCED will provide the bellweather of political will and international commitment for the major sustainable development investments required.

By Arthur Hanson, President and CEO, The International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, Manitoba



THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

1. Corporate Priority

To recognize environmental management as among the highest corporate priorities and as a key determinant to sustainable development; to establish policies, programmes and practices for conducting operations in an environmentally sound manner.

2. Integrated Management

To integrate these policies, programmes fully into each business as an essential element of management in all its functions.

3. Process of Improvement

To continue to improve corporate policies, programmes, and environmental performance, taking into account technical developments, scientific understanding, consumer needs, and community expectations, with legal regulations as a starting point; and to apply the same environmental criteria internationally.

4. Employee Education

To educate, train, and motivate employees to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

5. Prior Assessment

To assess environmental impacts before starting a new activity or project and before decommissioning a facility or leaving a site.

6. Products and Services

To develop and provide products or services that have no undue environmental impact and are safe in their intended use, that are efficient in their consumption of energy and natural resources, and that can be recycled, reused, or disposed of safely.

7. Customer Advice

To advise and, where relevant, educate customers, distributors, and the public in the safe use, transportation, storage, and disposal of products provided; and to apply similar considerations to the provision of services.

8. Facilities and Operations

To develop, design and operate facilities, and conduct activities taking into consideration the efficient use of energy and materials, the sustainable use of renewable resources, the minimization of adverse environmental impact and waste generation, and the safe and responsible disposal of residual wastes.

9. Research

To conduct or support research on the environmental impacts of raw materials, products, processes, emissions and wastes associated with the enterprise and the means of minimizing such adverse impacts.

10. Precautionary Approach

To modify the manufacturing, marketing, or use of products or services or the conduct of activities, consistent with scientific and technical understanding, to prevent serious or irreversible environmental degradation.

11. Contractors and Suppliers

To promote the adoption of these principles by contractors acting on behalf of the enterprise, encouraging and, where appropriate, requiring improvements in their practices to make them consistent with those of the enterprise; and to encourage the wider adoption of these principles by suppliers.

12. Emergency Preparedness

To develop and maintain, where significant hazards exist, emergency preparedness plans in conjunction with the emergency services, relevant authorities, and the local community, recognizing potential transboundary impacts.

13. Transfer of technology

To contribute to the transfer of environmentally sound technology and management methods throughout the industrial and public sectors.

14. Contributing to the Common Effort

To contribute to the development of public policy and to business, governmental, and intergovernmental programmes and educational initiatives that will enhance environmental awareness and protection.

15. Openness to Concern

To foster openness and dialogue with employees and the public, anticipating and responding to their concerns about the potential hazards and impacts of operations, products, wastes or services, including those of transboundary or global significance.

16. Compliance and Reporting

To measure environmental performance; to conduct regular environmental audits and assessments of compliance with company requirements, legal requirements and these principles; and periodically, to provide appropriate information to the Board of Directors, shareholders, employees, the authorities, and the public.

*Special thanks to Charles
Franklin and Umberto
Depretto at the ICC in Paris
France.*



MEMBERS OF THE NRT FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE



PAT DELBRIDGE is President of Pat Delbridge Associates Inc. in Toronto which specializes in issues and stakeholder management. The public affairs company, which she founded in 1980, is noted for its ability to bring sectors with diverse views together to find solutions to issues of public concern. Ms. Delbridge plays a leading role in designing consumer oriented programs and assists her clients in a better understanding of public participation and enhanced issues management skills. Prior to 1980, she was Executive Director of several advocacy organizations working in consumer rights, Third World Development and local community health services. She is the first Chair of the Federal Government's Environmental Choice Program.



PIERRE MARC JOHNSON, a lawyer and Doctor of Medicine, practices law with the firm of Guy and Gilbert in Montreal, teaches law at the Faculty of Law of McGill University and directs environmental research at the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law. Dr. Johnson is also on the Board of Directors of the International Institute for Sustainable Development. After completing a bachelor's degree in political science at Collège Jean de Brébeuf in 1967, he obtained a law degree from the University of Montreal in 1970 and was called to the Quebec Bar in 1971. He obtained a doctorate in medicine from the University of Sherbrooke in 1975. Elected to the Quebec National Assembly as member for Anjou, he held successive positions in René Lévesque's Cabinet as Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Social Affairs and Development, and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. In 1985, he was Premier of Quebec. He is Co-Chair of the NRT Foreign Policy Committee.



GERALDINE A. KENNEY-WALLACE is the President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University and former Chair of the Science Council of Canada. She is currently a member of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology and is a Director of numerous corporate boards. A native of London, England, Dr. Kenney-Wallace was educated in Oxford and London, received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the

University of British Columbia, has six honorary degrees, and was E.W.R. Steacie Fellow in 1984-86. Dr. Kenney-Wallace is a noted international authority on lasers and optoelectronics and the author of over ninety research publications. The Royal Society of Chemistry (U.K.), the Guggenheim and Sloan Foundations (U.S.A.) and the Chemical Institute of Canada have honoured her work.

JOHN KIRTON is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Fellow of Trinity College at the University of Toronto, where he has taught since 1977 in the fields of international relations and Canadian foreign policy. Before joining the University, he was a Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia's Institute for International Relations. He received his Ph. D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in 1977, his M. A. from Carleton University's School of International Affairs in 1973, and his B. A. from the University of Toronto's Victoria College in 1971, graduating with a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

JOHN S. MACDONALD is one of the founders of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. and served as the President and Chief Executive Officer until September 1982. He is now Chairman of the Board. Dr. MacDonald is the past Chairman of the Space Committee of the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada. He is also active in an advisory capacity to government, currently serving as the Chairman of the Canadian Advisory Council on Remote Sensing and as a member of the Premier's Advisory Council on Science and Technology for British Columbia. He is also a former member of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology. In January 1989, Dr. MacDonald was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. On May 1, 1990 he received the Canadian High Technology Person of the Year Award.



JIM MACNEILL is a member of the National Round Table and sits on its Foreign Policy Committee. As Secretary General and member of the World Commission on Environment and Development, he was the principal architect and a major author of its landmark report, *OUR COMMON FUTURE*. He was for seven years Director of Environment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France and, prior to that, he was Ambassador and



Commissioner General for the United Nations Habitat Conference in Vancouver, Secretary (Deputy Minister) in the federal Ministry of Urban Affairs, and a senior official in the Privy Council Office, Environment Canada and Energy, Mines and Resources. He played a leading role in Canada's preparations for the 1972 Stockholm Conference. He returned to Canada in 1988 where he now works as an international consultant and policy advisor on sustainable development. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research on Public Policy, a senior advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and a member of several Boards. His most recent book, **BEYOND INTERDEPENDENCE**, was published by Oxford University Press, New York, in August and by Diamond Press, Tokyo in Japanese in November.

ANDRÉ SAUMIER is Chairman of Saumier Frères. He spent some years in occupying consulting, management and financial positions before joining the Federal Government in 1967 as Assistant Deputy Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. During subsequent years he held senior positions with the federal departments of Regional Economic Expansion and of Urban Affairs, and served as Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Niger (Africa). In 1976, he was appointed Assistant and then Deputy Secretary to the Quebec Cabinet and, in 1978, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources (Water, Mines, Energy). He joined Richardson Securities of Canada at the end of 1979 as Senior Advisor and was elected a Partner in 1981. Upon the formation of Richardson Greenshields of Canada Limited in 1982, Mr. Saumier was appointed Senior Vice-president and a member of its Executive Committee. During that period, he served as President of the Quebec Section of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada, as a member of the National Executive Committee of the same Association, as a Governor and Vice-Chairman of the Montreal Stock Exchange. Mr. Saumier was named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Montreal Stock Exchange in 1985.

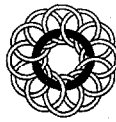
ANDRÉ BEAULIEU is a research associate at the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law. He received a B.A. Honours in Political Science from McGill University, and will graduate from McGill Law School in May 1992. He is a research assistant to Dr. Pierre Marc Johnson, a Special Adviser to the Secretary General of UNCED. In the summer of 1991 he worked with the UNCED secretariat and the UNCED Preparatory Committee in Geneva.

JOHN COX is President, John E. Cox Associates. Born in 1935 in Nottingham, England, Mr. Cox graduated following urban and regional planning studies in England and Sweden and is a policy and program planner in urban, environment, and economic development. Since forming his own company in 1986, he has been associated in a consulting capacity with the World Commission on Environment and Development, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Sigma Xi - the Scientific Research Society, the Institute for Research on Public Policy, and Chreod International. Formerly, Mr. Cox was the UN Director for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and held a series of senior positions in the Canadian public service. He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

JOHN G. DRAKE is Assistant Vice-President, Computing & Information Services and a Professor of Geography at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Drake is also Advisor to the President on Sustainable Development. His teaching and research interests include environmental science and the impacts of mining and urban development.

TIMOTHY EGAN was invited to be a member of the Foreign Policy committee because of his experience with international youth activities in environment and development. He headed the Canadian youth delegation to the Bergen Conference last year, established the Youth Working Group which is coordinating international youth activities for the UNCED, and is currently an advisor to the youth process. He is also Chair of the Board of Canadian Student Programme of the Faculty of Law at McGill University.

CHARLES HAYLES is Chairman of Pat Delbridge Associates Inc. (PDA), a company he joined in 1986 following a 35 year career with Imperial Oil. Charles completed his career as Vice President in charge of Marketing. Following this, he spent a year with the Conference Board of Canada and worked on a six-month loan to the Canadian Jobs Strategy program, the major thrust of the Department of Employment and Immigration set up to deal with the burgeoning unemployment problem of the mid 1980s. In the last two years, Mr. Hayles' work with clients in government, communications, pharmaceuticals, and energy and has focused on developing strategic positions related to the environment.



A Book Review

"BEYOND INTERDEPENDENCE": The Meshing of the World's Economy and the Earth's Ecology. By Jim MacNeill, Peiter Winsemius, and Taizo Yakushiji. Oxford University Press; 1991; 128 pages.

This book delves deeply into the realm of ideas and changes the way that people perceive the world. Using tight logic, the authors link together the many facets of the economy and the environment, leading to a compelling agenda for change. It is remarkable that they manage to achieve this in only 128 lucid pages.

The book charts the rapid growth of human activity during this century setting out some disturbing facts, which show that current forms of human economic activity and the environment are on a collision course. With the human population expected to double in the next fifty years, rapid economic growth will be essential to meet the basic needs of all people, but this will require a different quality of economic activity.

The authors call for domestic policies to be recast by: integrating the environment and the economy in decision-making; correcting perverse subsidies in the market; introducing environmental taxes and markets; and, reforming economic accounting systems. The recommendations are well supported by facts, for example, North America, Japan and Western Europe subsidize the production of food by approximately \$250 billion a year. It is not surprising that many farmers in the poorer nations, which cannot afford to engage in these price wars, are being driven off their land into the appalling slums of the cities of the developing world.

The book draws the connections between the changes in the global environment and geopolitical

shifts. The point is clear. It is time to redefine the term "national security" to include environmental threats. After World War II, a series of institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were introduced to encourage economic interdependence. Now a new generation of international institutions is required to reflect the reality of the interdependence of the global economy and the environment.

The authors conclude by looking forward to the challenges for a sustainable future. They assess the prospects for the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development scheduled for Brazil this June and call for a agreement of substance to lead people, in hope, through the first half of the next century. Meanwhile, they urge individuals to take every opportunity to make progress towards sustainable development. Thousands of small, positive steps will lead to the sustainable future.

This book will appeal to a wide audience. It offers much to political leaders, struggling to integrate the environment and the economy. It will appeal to environmentalists, who will enjoy the comprehensive vision for change. It will help businesspeople to bring their corporate strategies into alignment with reality. The book warrants more than one reading. It deserves to be studied.

Tony Cassils is a consultant on strategy and the environment and has spent over twenty years as a change agent in the private and the public sectors.

ELIMINATING CFC'S PAYS OFF

On Jan 10, Northern Telecom, a Canadian company with 60,000 employees worldwide, became the world's first large electronics firm to eliminate completely all use of CFC-113 in its 85 plants. CFC-113 is one of many chlorofluorocarbons that are widely used to clean the delicate soldered connections of chips and transistors in electronic boards.

Northern Telecom's announcement was remarkable for having been a self-imposed target reached nine years ahead of time. It's a story well worth recounting and celebrating.

By reaching its goal ahead of time, Northern Telecom saved the atmosphere from 9,000 tonnes of CFCs while eliminating more than \$50 million in costs. Even more remarkable there was no loss of quality.

Dr. Margaret Kerr, Northern Telecom's vice-president on the environment and member of the NRT, was key in the formulation of this initiative. **Congratulations, Dr. Kerr!**



FILMON WINS MERIT AWARD

The Honourable Gary Filmon, Premier of Manitoba, has been

awarded a Merit Award from the Association of Professional Engineers of Manitoba. This Merit Award recognizes his contribution to the engineering profession, his community involvement, and his outstanding public service, particularly, in the field of Sustainable Development.



ROUND TABLE ROUND-UP

On November 21 - 24, 1991, the Second Joint Meeting of Round Tables was held in Vancouver, B.C. Eleven of Canada's twelve Round Tables were represented.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The B.C. Round Table published and presented to Cabinet their "Towards a Strategy for Sustainability" report on January 27, 1992. The document summarizes the information from public forums, lays out the elements of sustainability for B.C., and outlines the workplan for completion of recommendations for Cabinet.

ALBERTA

The Alberta Round Table released its first report in November 1991. At the December meeting, working groups on Business and Industry, Organizations, Education, Government, and Indicators met. Seen as key to measuring progress toward sustainable development, indicators were selected for further study, and the Round Table will begin work in this area in the coming months.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Round Table held eight public meetings across the province to discuss its draft Conservation Strategy between January 14 - February 3. Following the public meetings, a Youth Forum was held on February 12, 1992. On February 13 - 14, approximately 200 environmental stakeholders met to provide their suggestions on the draft strategy. The education strategy for sustainable development was also tabled at the stakeholders conference. The final strategy will be presented to the Premier in April.

MANITOBA

In the spring and fall of 1991, the Manitoba Round Table held Open Houses on the Core Document, "Towards a Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitobans." The MRT released "What You Told Us: Forests," the "Code of Practice Strategy"; a generic checklist of self-assessment questions, and "Meeting the Recom-

mendations of the National Task Force Report on Environment and Economy," the progress Manitoba has taken towards implementation.

ONTARIO

Draft reports of the Ontario Round Table's six Sectoral Task Forces and the Native People's Circle are out for a final round of public comment. The ORT and the Ontario Securities Commission co-hosted a successful Forum on Corporate Reporting for Sustainable Development on December 13. The early part of 1992 continues to be the target date for release of Ontario's strategy.

QUEBEC

At its October 11th meeting, the Quebec Round Table met to discuss the terms of reference for their action plan on sustainable development. At their next meeting, Round Table members will ratify the action plan's objectives and broaden its scope. Executive Director Harvey Mead resigned in December 1991.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Premier McKenna appointed additional members to the Round Table to ensure that relevant ministries continued to participate on the Round Table. The NBRT's draft sustainable development strategy is being revised after a second session of public consultation and will now consist of a concise Action Plan with a more comprehensive companion document. The Round Table intends to present the Strategy to the Premier by April 1992.

NOVA SCOTIA

In October 1992, the NSRT held a series of public consultations on their draft document, and the results were presented to the Round Table on November 27, 1991. The NSRT will give greater attention to sustainable development education and will elaborate on its formal and non-formal education plans, linking them together over the coming months.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The Round Table's December 1991 meeting focused on environmental education. The Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department of Education attended the meeting and discussed the expansion of environmental education into school curriculums. Papers on Arterial Access and Coastal Zone were also reviewed.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NLRTEE) has developed a draft public consultation strategy. The proposed Strategy was reviewed at the January Round Table meeting. Implementation of the plan will fall under a recently established Steering Committee.

YUKON

The Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment recently held a major conference to review the Government's implementation of the Yukon Economic Strategy. Conference workshops focused on the energy sector. A second conference will examine the native economy and whether native values can be maintained within a market economy.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The NWT Round Table is presently under review. This review is the result of a general examination of government program delivery undertaken by the Government of The Northwest Territories and a commitment by the new government to bring its programs closer to the people they are designed to serve.



NRTEE WORK IN PROGRESS

Senior Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development and Prosperity

Co-chaired by Dr. George E. Connell, Chair of the NRT, and the Honourable Donald S. MacDonald, Chair of the Board of IRPP, the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) held their first meeting on December 13, 1991. The topics listed below were chosen for initial study. At the next meeting, February 7, 1992, a number of additional subject areas will be selected for study to complement those already underway.

1. Under the direction of a newly established Task Force, the relationship between environmental regulation and competitiveness will be examined, using the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry as a case study. NRT Member John E. Houghton, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Québec and Ontario Paper Company Ltd., will lead the initiative assisted by staff members Ron Doering, Executive Director; Steve Thompson, Senior Associate; Ruth Wherry, seconded from the Science Council of Canada; Dan Roberts, seconded from Forestry Canada; and François Bregha, seconded from the Rawson Academy of Aquatic Science. Several preparatory meetings have already been held, with the next scheduled for February 14, 1992. The Task Force plans to complete a report by April 30, 1992.

2. Canada Trust Chief Executive Officer, Peter Maurice, will be working with Round Table staff members Mike Kelly and Ruth Wherry on the issue of environmental liability and its impact on lending and financing.

3. Building on the success of the November conference on Trade, Environment and Competitiveness, a comprehensive follow-up study is underway. Leading the initiative is David Runnalls of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, with the cooperation of Arthur Hanson, Senior Advisory Committee Member.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

4. Over the past year, Members of the Foreign Policy Committee have focused all of their work towards the success of UNCED '92 and in particular, have examined financing, reform of international institutions and technology transfer. Their recommendations will be debated at the February plenary session on the 20 - 21st. The Honourable Barbara McDougall and the Honourable Monique Landry have been invited to attend the February session, in addition to their colleagues, Minister Jean Charest, Michael Wilson, Donald Mazankowski and Jake Epp, who are NRT Members.

Task Force on Tools for Sustainable Development

5. The newly established Task Force on Tools for Sustainable Development held its first meeting January 20, 1992. Proposals and workplans will be presented to the Plenary in February. Work is to concentrate on Indicators, Consensus Decision-Making, Accountability and Economic Instruments.

Sustainable Development Education

6. The Standing Committee on Education and Communications is pleased to hand off the ball it has been carrying on the Sustainable Development Education Program, with the announcement of Mr. Jean Perras as the full-time Executive Director. The committee will be making a report to the next plenary on its continuing role in education, both in formal institutions and the general public.

Sustaining Wetlands

7. Follow-up to the Sustainable Wetlands Forum continues with the North American Wetlands Conservation Task Force. A comprehensive report is being prepared on the implementation of recommendations. A series of publications on related issues including tax law and managing wetlands are being developed.

Dialogue on Forests

8. John Houghton will host the next meeting of the Forests Dialogue scheduled for February 3 and 4, 1992. At this time, common principles for Sustainable Development of Canada's Forests will be finalized. A progress report is being drafted for presentation at the National Forest Congress, scheduled for March 2,3,4, 1992, in Ottawa.

Tourism Dialogue

9. Diane Griffin and Lester Lafond will co-host the unveiling of Codes of Practice for sustainable development in Saskatoon from February 16 - 18, 1992. The Codes will cover different sectors of the industry, from food and beverages, hotels, tourism associations to tourists themselves.

Communications

10. NRT Public Service Announcements are currently running on TV stations throughout Canada. The 30 second ads, developed last year by the Education and Communications Committee, have been very well received.

11. The Sustainable Development Series was published by the NRT in December. To date, 35,000 books have been mailed to targeted groups across the country. The response has been excellent. Additions to the series are under development.

12. Preparations are currently underway for a nation-wide poster campaign. The campaign is designed to raise an awareness and understanding among school children of the principles of sustainable development, and to stimulate an involvement on the part of Canadian youth in preserving our environment.

Globe '92

13. Globe '92 will be taking place in Vancouver from March 16 - 20, 1992. The NRT will be participating in the event, and will have an information booth at the Canada Pavilion.



THE ENVIRONMENT AND CANADA'S COMPETITIVENESS IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

by JOSEFINA S. GONZALEZ

Canada's forest products industry faces increasing competition in the global marketplace. Traditional competitors like the U.S and Scandinavia boast higher levels of R & D investments. Newer suppliers like South America and Southeast Asia have lower-cost skilled labor. Canada has the advantages of low-cost energy, proximity to a major market (U.S.), and high quality products. However, Canada's resource base is changing. Supply and demand are no longer simple economic issues. A new dynamic is emerging and impacting on the industry. To maintain its performance, the industry needs a bold and broader vision based on the concept of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a long-term strategy. It recognizes the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental issues and calls for their integration at all levels of decision making. The strategy requires

managing the forest not only for timber values but also for social and cultural values, protection of soil, water, wildlife, and fish habitats. It involves fostering the productivity, renewal capacity, and species diversity of forest ecosystems. It means building partnerships and respecting the right of communities and stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes, using "win-win" and "interdependent" approaches.

There is resistance to sustainable development because it means shedding old beliefs and practices. It is blamed for increased short-term costs and having to redesign products and processes to comply with new tough policies and environmental regulations. But those who view it as an opportunity to develop clean technology and competitive products will be ahead. Industry's "green" performance is becoming an important factor in determining its access to export markets. Consumer preferences and environ-

mental issues are becoming integral to how the forest industry conducts its business and markets its products.

As all these dynamics emerge, industry would do well to embrace the concept of sustainable development. The ground rules are changing. The global community is beginning to better understand that environmental protection is a universal need. As the forest industry takes steps to ensure its competitiveness in the decades ahead, it must continue its dialogue with other partners in the forest sector. It must maintain open and honest relations with the Canadian public and be responsive to their concerns. Finally, the industry may benefit by keeping in mind the origin of the word "compete". It means "to seek together," "to go together," "to be fitting."

*Josefina Gonzalez is a
Member of the National
Round Table*

LIST OF NRT PUBLICATIONS

- ☐ Preserving our World
- ☐ Sustainable Development: A Managers Handbook
- ☐ Discussions on Decision Making Practices
- ☐ The National Waste Reduction Handbook
- ☐ On the Road to Brazil
- ☐ Sustainable Development and the Municipality
- ☐ NRT Annual Report 1991
- ☐ Exploring Incentives: An Introduction to Incentives and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Development
- ☐ Measuring Sustainable Development: Energy Production and Use in Canada
- ☐ Newsletter Vol. 1 Summer 91
- ☐ Newsletter Vol. 2 Fall 91

VIDEO'S - Please send \$8.00 or Blank Tape

- ☐ Its Our Future
- ☐ NRT Public Service Announcements

For copies of publications, please check off boxes and send to the National Round Table, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 520, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7 or fax us at (613) 992-7385.

NAME/ADDRESS _____



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and the Economy*

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*President
Energy and Chemical Workers Union*

Francoise Bertrand

*Présidente-directrice générale
Société de radio-télévision du Québec
The Honourable Jean Charest
Minister of Environment
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