

sustained, longer term efforts. The full financial implications of Agenda 21 should be clearly spelled out and be largely funded through assessed and inflation indexed annual contributions.

- *Adopt new and automatic sources of funds.* As a global program for sustainable development and survival, Agenda 21 must be insulated from domestic political fluctuations in key countries. Some of the proposals for new sources of revenue and automatic funding set out in the 1987 Brundtland report and later studies should be negotiated and adopted to provide additional financing for implementing Agenda 21 (e.g. user charges for global commons, revenue from the exploitation of international common property resources, the peace dividend from cutbacks in military expenditures).
- *Protect all countries from environmental threats or damage by other countries.* National sovereignty concerns undercut progress on several key issues in the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan. Over the last two decades they continued to block progress in many areas, especially international law. Although an impressive number of new environmental conventions have been negotiated since 1972, countries can largely ignore them with impunity. With no built-in or binding legal remedies, affected states can only apply whatever individual diplomatic, economic or military clout they may have. Success in implementing Agenda 21 will require new legal measures and mechanisms for securing compliance with international environmental laws and resolving conflicts which will inevitably arise.⁵
- *Secure a new deal for the poor.* National sovereignty concerns are generally invoked by countries with too much or too little political and economic power. The latter are the majority and have more reason for concern. With little of anything except increasing poverty, trade deficits and debts, most developing countries vigorously defend what little power they have. The Rio Conference must confront the causes of their concern. As stated in the recent UNCED report by the ten SADCC countries, the "Earth Charter and Agenda 21 must expand the development choices and opportunities for the majority of poor people, communities and countries...no new political and economic arrangements within or among our countries can be called sustainable if they fail to change the present situation of a rich minority and poor majority by significantly reducing the gap between them. The Earth Charter and

⁵ Choosing our Common Future, pp. 25-26.