

"The principle that countries to which decisions taken to protect the atmosphere shall prove to be an abnormal or special burden, in view, inter alia, of the level of their development and actual responsibility for the deterioration of the atmosphere, shall receive fair and equitable assistance to compensate them for bearing such burden. To this end mechanisms will have to be developed;

"The negotiation of the necessary legal instruments to provide an effective and coherent foundation, institutionally and financially, for the aforementioned principles."

In July of that year seven heads of government meeting in Paris agreed that -

"Protecting the environment calls for a determined and concerted international response and for the early adoption, worldwide, of policies based on sustainable development." These Heads of State looked to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to give "additional momentum to the protection of the global environment."

"We advocate that existing environment institutions be strengthened with the UN system. In particular, UNEP urgently requires strengthening and increased financial support. Some of us have agreed that the establishment within the UN of a new institution may also be worth considering."

Later in 1989 the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries meeting in Belgrade -

"Emphasized the need to agree on a concept of sustainable development with a view to promoting effective international co-operation in environmental protection; the concept should necessarily include the meeting of basic needs of all people on our planet, stable economic growth, especially a speedier development of developing countries, as well as improving the quality of life."

Underlining that "international measures to control the use of environmentally damaging substances should be aimed at redressing the existing asymmetry in world consumption and production levels", these leaders called for "net additional financial resources and access to and transfer of alternative clean technologies. In this context they recommended that the creation of a special international fund to promote international cooperation in the field of environment to finance research and development of alternative technologies and to bring these technologies within easy reach of developing countries should seriously be considered."

They "called on developed countries and relevant international organizations to establish new and strengthen existing mechanisms and funds for stimulating the transfer to developing countries of "clean" technologies and technologies for environmental protection and improvement, and to earmark additional financial resources for environmental cooperation on concessional terms."

These pronouncements set very high goals and objectives for the 1992 Conference. Somewhat more specific are the seven "critical objectives for environment and development policies that follow from the concept of sustainable development" listed by the WCED:

- reviving growth;
- changing the quality of growth;