

greater Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) participation. Canada should endorse the proposal of the Commission for Global Governance for an annual Civil Society Forum to precede sessions of the UN General Assembly.

Promoting the financial viability of international organizations committed to sustainable human development.

Canada's official development assistance (ODA) budget, which supports a large proportion of Canada's involvement in international organizations, has suffered disproportionate budget cuts since 1988.

viii. Canada should make no further cuts to the ODA budget and begin to reverse the decline as it moves toward its stated goal of committing 0.7% of GNP.

At the same time, the group noted that new economic instruments addressing critical challenges to sustainable human development could be actively explored by Canada. These options included: the long-term funding of international organizations committed to sustainable human development through some form of "development tax;" the regulation of volatile international financial markets; and the promotion of changes in unsustainable and environmentally destructive consumption patterns at home as well as abroad.

d. **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The working group on culture and communications emphasized that the safeguarding of Canadian culture was of the highest priority. It recognized that the protection of culture and the