

endorsed efforts of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development to link the environment and the economy, to explore market-oriented approaches, and to establish environmental indicators.

The role of market economies and democratic systems in mobilizing adequate resources and ensuring accountability was discussed at the 1991 London Summit. Protection of living marine resources received particular attention.

In Munich in 1992, leaders urged other countries to join in establishing the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the body tasked with implementing Agenda 21. At the Tokyo Summit in 1993, the concluding communiqué called for an internationally agreed arrangement on forests. The 1994 Naples Summit confirmed the need for greater international co-operation in the areas of technology, energy efficiency and pollution cleanup. Multilateral development banks were urged to be more ecologically sensitive, and to ensure greater local participation in their programs. This concern reflects the social dimension of sustainable development.

In spring 1995, Canada hosted a meeting of G-7 environment ministers. The group discussed how international institutions can better promote environmental issues and how governments can "green" their operations and decision making. The ministers also reviewed progress on climate change, conservation of biodiversity and the management of toxic chemicals. G-7 leaders discussed the results of this meeting at the Halifax Summit.

Halifax Initiatives

The Halifax communiqué outlined the role of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other institutions established as a result of the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference in supporting sustainable development initiatives, and the need for relevant institutions to make these initiatives central to their policies and programs. Participants noted that environmental protection can enhance economic efficiency and growth, and help create long-term employment. Also, further co-operation was called for on issues relating to climate change, biological diversity, forests, fish stocks and oceans. Leaders asked that the mandate of the two main UN institutions dealing with environmental issues — the United Nations Environment Program and the Commission on Sustainable Development — be more clearly delineated.

In May 1996, G-7 environment ministers met in Cabourg, France. Discussions focused on health and the environment, sustainable development, international institutional arrangements for the environment, and trade and the environment. They agreed that there was a need to recapture the sense of urgency regarding environmental problems and called for G-7 leaders to commit themselves personally to attend next year's Special Session of the UN on the five-year review of the Rio conference and the adoption of Agenda 21. This meeting will be an ideal occasion to give renewed impetus to action on the environment