

- improvement of market information to promote the shift of consumption toward ecologically appropriate products.

GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES

1 The particular regions of the world or sectors of the economy that will be damaged first or most strongly by a rapidly changing atmosphere cannot be foreseen today, but the magnitude and variety of the eventual impacts is such that it is in the self-interest of all people to join in prompt action to slow the change and to negotiate toward an international accord on achieving shared responsibility for care of the climate and the atmosphere.

2 Coordinated international efforts and an all-encompassing international agreement are required along with prompt action by governmental agencies and non-governmental groups to prevent harmful changes to the atmosphere. Such actions can be based on improvements in energy efficiency, the use of alternative energy sources, and the transfer of technology and resources to the Third World.

LEGAL DIMENSIONS

1 More states should observe the international principles and norms that exist and all should be encouraged to enact or strengthen appropriate national legislation for the protection of the atmosphere.

2 The offer of the Prime Minister of Canada to host a meeting of law and policy experts in early 1989 should be accepted. That meeting should address the question of the progressive development and codification of the principles of international law taking into account the general principles of law set out in the Trail smelter, Lac Lanoux, Corfu Channel cases, Principle 21 of the 1972 Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and related protocols, Part XII of the Law of the Sea Convention and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montréal Protocol. The meeting should be directed toward the elaboration of the principles to be included in an umbrella framework Convention on the Protection of the Atmosphere – one that would lend itself to the development of specific agreements/protocols laying down international standards for the protection of the atmosphere, in addition to existing instruments.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

1 A thorough review is required to establish the institutional needs for cooperation in research, impact assessment and development of public policy options at the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental levels, at regional levels and at national levels. This review should be completed by 1992.

2 Extension and further development is required for a United Nations global monitoring and information system that will incorporate technological advances in measurement, data storage and retrieval, and communications in order to track systematic changes in the physical, chemical, biological and socio-economic parameters that collectively describe the total global human environment. The responsibility for development rests with governments. The monitoring system should be in place by the year 2000.

3 Also required is the development of an educational program to familiarize present and future generations with the importance of addressing issues concerning sustainable development including the actions and integrated, interdisciplinary programs needed.