

issues until there is movement on the trade and debt issues. Koy Thompson of the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) raised important questions for our consideration; namely whether UNCED is the appropriate forum in which to discuss and deal with these complex and very technical questions. Or should increased NGO efforts be directed toward other fora such as the GATT? It was suggested that there should be mechanisms within Agenda 21 for continuing work on linkages with such fora.

On the question of finance and technology transfer, Koy Thompson reported back to the NGOs that several of the northern countries, most notably the Scandinavians and the Swiss indicated how much they are giving away in financial resources already, but that an unusual emphasis was placed on indirect conditionality, i.e. agreeing to give away resources but only if they are spent responsibly. On technology transfer, Thompson noted that discussion was of a very general nature and that the general feeling among delegations was that this issue is best suited to other fora outside UNCED such as WIPO or UNIDO.

Thompson also noted that there was a weakening of the usual rhetoric regarding the terms of technology transfer. Some delegations suggested that there should be a mandatory fund for compensation to industry to close the gap between social benefit and self-interest. Other delegations suggested that technology transfer should be free while others asked for studies on standards for cleaner technology.

The Third World Network made an intervention on both financial and technology transfer questions. The intervention states that poverty, environmental degradation and under-development in the South is the counterpart of the affluence, high consumption patterns and over-development or rather maldevelopment in the North. Any effort to deal with the former without dealing with the latter, is doomed to failure. Thus any efforts to deal with the environmental crisis must necessarily start with a fundamental reformulation of the development model and change in the North-South economic relations. As well, the intervention suggests that the role of the UN and Bretton Woods Institutions must be seen as environmentally destructive. Similarly, bilateral and multilateral aid policies and the liberalization of markets and privatization must be scrutinized within UNCED.