

for the 21st century, and to foster a global understanding of the interdependence of environment and development.

The aim of the conference was to make progress on a broad spectrum of environmental issues ranging from climate change and forest management to the protection of biodiversity and marine resources. The conference saw the adoption of the Rio Declaration, the Statement of Principles on Forests, and Agenda 21, a blueprint for sustainable development into the 21st century. In addition, framework conventions on biological diversity and climate change were signed by more than 150 governments. Canada has ratified both conventions. The 1992 Munich Summit pressed for action to follow up and implement the achievements of UNCED, urging other countries to join in establishing the UN Sustainable Development Commission.

In concert with multilateral efforts at UNCED and the economic summits, Canada made sustainable

development a top domestic priority. Following extensive public consultations on environmental problems, it unveiled the "Green Plan" in 1990. The Green Plan is a comprehensive policy framework and action plan for sustainable development in Canada. It establishes targets and schedules for a range of domestic and international environmental issues. The plan is based on the principle of partnership among stakeholders, including federal and provincial governments, business, labour, indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations. As a result of extensive consultations with all of these groups, and because they were included in Canada's delegation, Canada was able to play a more practical and substantial role in the deliberations at UNCED in Rio.

Growing public awareness and the sheer magnitude of the problems will ensure that the environment and sustainable development remain key domestic and international agenda items in the future.