

At Bonn the Summit countries then undertook a package of more specific commitments to give effect to concerted action. These commitments were seen as mutually supportive steps which would have been difficult for governments to take unilaterally.

As a further elaboration of the OECD "concerted action" programme, Summit participants agreed: to review their energy policies with a view to speeding up their implementation; that further development of nuclear power was indispensable and that the slippage in the execution of nuclear power programmes must be reversed. It was also agreed that coal should play an increasingly important role and that new and renewable energy sources, as well as existing ones, should be developed and made more efficient.

In the North/South area participants pledged themselves to provide increased funds to the concessional window of the World Bank (International Development Association (IDA) to permit its lending to rise annually in real terms.

It was also suggested that the World Bank explore ways to make its activities in the energy field more responsive to the needs of the least developed countries. An examination of the possibility of financing hydrocarbon exploration was particularly stressed.

Tokyo Summit, June 1979

Of the list of problems plaguing the world economy prior to the Tokyo Summit, the most pressing were the threat of a worldwide recession, continuing and reaccelerating rates of inflation, a recent OPEC price hike and high unemployment.

At Tokyo, Summit leaders chose to focus primarily on energy and inflation. Energy developments (problems of both cost and supply) were seen to have compounded the inflation problem and limited the potential for growth even further. The 1979 oil price increase was viewed as reversing much of the progress that had been made in improving the worldwide balance-of-payments picture.

At previous Summits the focus of attention was on demand management policies, and particularly on the need for greater coordination of such policies. Unlike previous Summits, the Leaders at Tokyo focussed to a far greater extent on the need for macro-economic policies aimed at promoting structural adjustment. This new emphasis on increasing productivity and the promotion of the more efficient use of labour and capital was seen to require greater emphasis on a medium term focus.