

recommended that Agenda 21 formulate action programmes to reverse the Third World's poor and declining terms of trade, increase the value of Third World raw materials to reflect their scarcity value and ecological and social value and establish mechanisms to settle the problem of Third World debt. At the national level rich countries should strengthen social security systems for poor people in their own countries, and poor countries' governments should readjust their development strategies so that priority is given to poverty eradication. At the community level political spaces must be widened so that national policies can be operationalized in ways that really benefit the poor.

The ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that cleaning up the environment involves both rights and obligations. They pointed out that if we are to make progress towards the alleviation of poverty and the achievement of sustainability in economic development, industry, including workers and their representative trade unions would be key players. Trade unions have a long history of working for the health and safety of their members. Agenda 21 must specifically recognize the role of workers and their trade unions in the process of change towards a sustainable future.

Nepal made a special reference to the poor in fragile mountain areas. They spoke of the need for public participation and urged the meeting not to forget children in their deliberations. Kenya called for new approaches to family planning. The European Youth Forum spoke in tandem and asked that funds be reserved for youth to attend the conference in Brazil. Mr. Koh replied that this had been done. China reminded the plenary that poverty was different in each country and urged the meeting to make recommendations to improve the existing irrational economic order, to improve the conditions of debt, the capital outflow from poor countries and terms of trade.

Parliamentarians for Global Action, a network of 650 members of 51 parliaments around the world, have held three recent meetings one in Bellagio Italy, Cambridge Massachusetts, and Abidjan to formulate a policy on some principal aspects of sustainability. They called for new types of treaties which would strike a more enlightened balance of international equity between North and South. Such treaties should introduce the new concept of ecological security and the ethic of inter-generational equity. Such innovations must be clearly present and effective in the legal obligations of these protocols. They also called for action on global environmental issues such as climate change and pointed out that a precondition of sustainable development is adequate debt relief for the severely debt-distressed countries.

The chair thanked the NGO's for the richness which they added to the discussions and pointed out that it was extremely important to continue with this process, ie., the involvement of NGO's. The discussion ended with a presentation by Stephan Schmidheiny of the Business Council for Sustainable Development. He said that the transfer of technology had been largely unsuccessful because it had not been predicated on business reality. He said that most transfers of technology could be done through ordinary commercial means and he suggested that special funds should be made available for those areas where commercial financing was not available. He