

Mechanisms for Integration

Perhaps as important as system-wide coordination, and perhaps more likely to succeed, are efforts to integrate environmental sustainability considerations into development planning and implementation by the UN specialized and expert agencies. Of most obvious interest in this regard are UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNIDO and WMO, but many others have a role to play.

UNEP

Although the recent UNEP Governing Council agreed that UNEP reform should not be discussed until after the UNCED, many countries agree that UNEP's operations should be strengthened, particularly in such areas as environmental monitoring and assessment, exchange of information, and the elaboration of legal instruments. As well, UNEP is the key agency providing technical advice to senior UN officials charged with ensuring environmental priorities are integrated into developmental policies and programmes.

UNDP

UNDP has undertaken to implement environmental protection and enhancement in its development assistance programmes, drawing on and complementing UNEP's expertise, rather than duplicating or replacing it. At the same time, there is a need to coordinate its programmes with those of the other UN agencies as well as the World Bank, regional development banks, bilateral development cooperation agencies and private development agencies.

It should be noted, however, that UNDP's mandate is essentially focused on development assistance, whereas any integration mechanism would have to take account of policies for environmentally sustainable development in all countries, including industrialized nations.

4. Role of Organizations Outside the UN System

Integration of environmental concerns into the activities of the United Nations agencies, and the coordination of their efforts, will be crucial in implementing the results of UNCED. However, even if successful, these actions will not be sufficient to guarantee a satisfactory outcome. Institutional efforts involving other intergovernmental, non-governmental, and hybrid government/non-government/business arrangements will play an important role.

The multilateral system includes a number of players in addition to the institutions of the United Nations. The Bretton Woods