

presentations touched on the need to change human behaviour and values and to address health issues. Many delegations referred to population issues and the need to contain growth in this area. Very few delegations referred to the need for education. One of the exceptions was Australia who in their general statement on education included a reference to the ECO-ED conference in Toronto.

The G-77 focused on international economic issues and the need to address these seriously. They criticized the Secretariat paper PC45 for focusing exclusively on national policies as the principal cause of poverty in developing countries. Their intervention looked in some detail on the statistics relating to the flow of resources between developing and developed countries. They argued that massive transfers from poor to rich countries caused perennial balance of payments difficulties, necessitating the introduction of structural adjustment measures. Since these programmes focus on short term measures intended to reduce public expenditure, they create considerable economic and social dislocation and further exacerbate conditions of poverty in the countries concerned.

The EC linked the issues of poverty and affluence and referred to the concept of primary environmental care. They spoke about the environmental health aspects of development with respect to the issues of urbanization, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. They welcomed the establishment of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment. They went on to say that the rich who are mainly found in the industrialized countries use a disproportionate share of the world's renewable and non-renewable resources and discharge their waste into the environment in quantities that exceed the ecosystem's absorption capacity. They called for equal access to natural resources. They also pointed out that security of land tenure was an important issue to consider when looking at poverty and environmental degradation. They called for clearer elaboration of the document which looked at consumption patterns and urged that sustainable development be translated into national policies.

Sweden, on behalf of the Nordic countries, spoke of the unsustainable consumption patterns of the rich countries. They felt that the main responsibility for reducing poverty rested with national governments. The necessary policies should be based on regarding people as an asset, providing basic social services to the poor and looking to the redistribution of wealth and resources within countries. On an international level the efforts of developing countries needed to be supported by favourable external economic conditions, including a well functioning world economy and improved market access for developing countries.

Malaysia pointed out that poverty alleviation was central to UNCED and that external resources were needed to address poverty issues. Costa Rica recommended that military spending be allocated to the environment. Tanzania urged UNCED to address global economic imbalances.

The Third World Network (an Asia based NGO) referred to the need to empower communities, the need for better North-South cooperation and the need internationally for a new economic order. They pointed out that poverty has international, national and local roots. At the international level the causes of loss of income to the poor countries due to the inequitable economic world order must be tackled. They