

A supportive policy framework would include:

(a) **International cooperation to provide a framework for the effective alleviation of poverty** including: stopping the net outflow of resources from poor countries; removing trade barriers for products from developing countries; reducing military expenditure 20% by 1995; changing structural adjustment programs where they divert resources from basic human and environmental protection services, etc. National and local efforts should give priority to meeting basic needs for food, shelter, health and education - rights recognized in United Nations agreements. International policies should support these efforts.

(b) **Political and financial commitments to support a community driven approach to sustainability.** A community driven approach developed and lead by peoples' organizations, women's groups and NGOs would include: 1) establishing grassroots mechanisms and strengthening and replicating existing grassroots mechanisms (a) to empower communities in the areas of finance, technology exchange and communications and (b) to allow the sharing of experience and knowledge between communities nationally, regionally and globally; 2) transferring back to communities the responsibility and control for the management and protection of the local natural resources on which their economy depends to assure that these resources are developed in a sustainable fashion; 3) establishing a network of community based learning centers for sustainable development which, among other things, would cultivate endogenous capacity for technological development, application and assessment; 4) empowering women through full participation in decision making; 5) respecting the cultural integrity, promoting self-determination and rights to control over natural resources of indigenous peoples; and 6) commitment to democratic decision making at the local, national, multi-lateral and global levels.

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