



NINTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OR  
GOVERNMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

BEOGRAD '89

ninth non - aligned summit

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ENVIRONMENT

The Heads of State or Government :

- Were greatly concerned at the continuing deterioration in the state of the environment. These trends if allowed to continue unchecked could disrupt the global ecological balance and jeopardise the earth's life-sustaining qualities. In a few decades the world could be facing an ecological catastrophe;

- Noted that the physical and social aspects of the deterioration of the environment are increasingly evident in developing countries; they confirmed that such trends were a consequence of the widening gap in development levels between the North and the South, that poverty and the degradation of the environment are closely related. Environmental protection in developing countries had to be viewed as an integral part of the development and could not be considered in isolation from it;

- Stressed the need of the international community to consider with utmost seriousness the degradation of the global life-support systems, primarily the process of water and air pollution, depletion of the ozone layer, soil degradation, desertification and deforestation. The pressures brought to bear on these global systems by the prevalent patterns of production and consumption especially in the developed countries as well as the global energy system make the current global trends unsustainable. If concerted measures were not taken to check these processes, in a few decades the world would be faced with unforeseeable consequences. In this context they noted with concern a growing tendency towards external impositions and increased conditionalities on the part of some developed countries in dealing with environmental issues;

- Noted that international cooperation in the field of environmental protection called for a global multilateral approach so that all aspects be considered while retaining the development priorities of developing countries and respecting the principle of proportionality in shares and responsibilities with due respect to the sovereign right of every country over its natural resources;

The Heads of State or Government:

1. Expressed the readiness of non-aligned countries to intensify and promote international cooperation in the area of environment in order to prevent the disruption of the global ecological balance;