

PART II, SECTION IX INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Introduction

Chapter 39 of Agenda 21 recognizes the importance of international law in achieving the goals of UNCED. It stresses the need to integrate development and environmental concerns in existing and future agreements, especially those with an economic focus. It also emphasizes the need to assist developing countries to participate in treaty making and to improve their capacity to legislate on these issues. Another important concern is the development of means to assist with the effective implementation of international agreements and mechanisms to facilitate dispute settlement.

The Canadian Experience

Since UNCED, Canada has taken part in a series of global negotiations that have devoted particular attention to the needs and capacities of developing countries. For example, Canada has helped fund the process and the involvement of developing states in negotiating and implementing the Desertification Convention.

Canada also worked with developing countries during the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. This conference is discussed in greater detail in the section of this report on protection of the oceans and other seas. During that process, Canada worked closely with many countries, particularly developing states, that shared similar views on the conservation and use of these fish stocks.