

Foreword

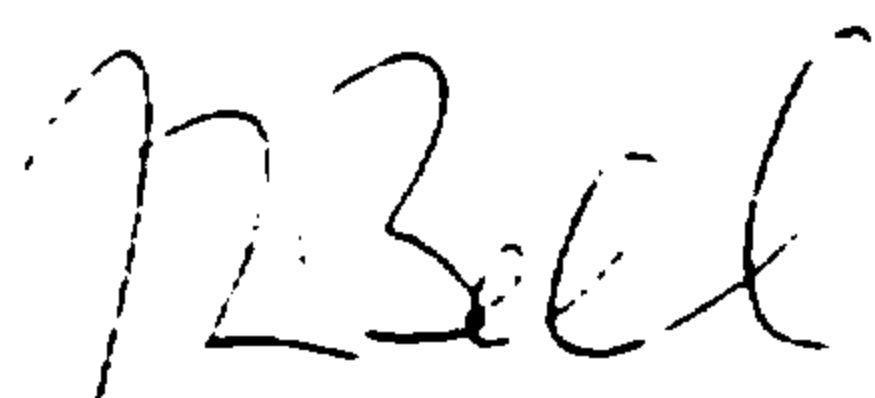
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The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - UNCED - poses an unprecedented challenge to the world's governments in an extraordinary era in human history. It is to integrate environmental considerations with economic decision-making, to recognize the inextricable link between environmental degradation and poverty, and to forge a new framework for relations between industrialized and developing states.

How do we meet the challenge of sustainable development as embodied in UNCED's agenda? This question brought together a group of individuals who have played pivotal roles in advancing global action on the environment, including Mr. Maurice Strong who was Secretary-General of the Stockholm Conference, and is Secretary General of UNCED. For almost two days they and Canadian officials reviewed the legacy of the landmark 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - the Stockholm Conference - and the prospects for UNCED given today's social, political and economic reality in Canada and the world.

This report on the seminar reflects to some degree UNCED's complexity in the range of views expressed by the participants. At the concluding event, a lunch hosted by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Mr. Strong presented the key points made during the seminar, as well as his vision of UNCED's potential, as its Secretary General. The discussion which followed engaged Mme. McDougall and her cabinet colleagues, the Honourable Jean Charest, Minister for the Environment, and the Honourable Pauline Browes, Minister of State for the Environment, in an exploration of the role that Canada can play to achieve its national and international objectives in the UNCED process and beyond.

UNCED is clearly an important milestone for the world, and its legacy will guide us into the next century. It is our hope that the results of this seminar will make some small contribution in illuminating the "road to Rio".



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