

its "global agenda for change." Here they called for change at both national and international level "to give the central economic and sectoral ministries the responsibility for the quality of those parts of the human environment affected by their decisions, and to give the environmental agencies more power to cope with the effects of unsustainable development."

The implications for international arrangements were clear:

"the same need for change holds for international agencies concerned with development lending, trade regulation, agricultural development, and so on. ... The ability to anticipate and prevent environmental damage requires that the ecological dimensions of policy be considered at the same time as the economic, trade, energy, agricultural, and other dimensions. They should be considered on the same agendas and in the same national and international institutions."

In a section entitled "getting at the sources" WCED called for strengthening the ability of international organizations - including regional and subregional - to integrate environment more fully into their macroeconomic, trade, energy, and other sectoral programmes.

The WCED report on the needs of sustainable development provided a footing for the Assembly to adopt, as "the aspirational goal for the world community", the "achievement of sustainable development on the basis of prudent management of available global resources and environmental capacities and the rehabilitation of the environment previously subjected to degradation and misuse, . . .".<sup>24</sup>

Accordingly, the Assembly then transmitted WCED's report to all governing bodies of the UN system with the request that they review their policies, programs, budgets and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development. In general terms the concepts of environment and development have evolved over a period of 16 years into an international policy statement of sufficient content to be potentially useful for coordinating the activities of the entire UN system - when there is sufficient political will, and resources can be mobilized.

3. The Growing Importance of "ODA".<sup>25</sup> Whereas until recent years Official Development Assistance (ODA) accounted for only 30% of the international transfers of resources to developing countries - laying the basis, as it were, for far larger sums in the form of private loans and investments in the future development of these countries - today ODA has assumed a role of critical importance, accounting for some 50% of the resource flows to developing countries.<sup>26</sup>