

Government teams. These public forums helped to focus attention on environmental issues and especially those on the Stockholm agenda.

5. The Stockholm Conference - even after nearly 20 years in a rapidly changing world - is still regarded as one of the most important conferences in U.N. history. It was

"designed to assess the present state of the human environment; to examine the threats to it; and to agree on what measures must be taken by nations and by the international community to protect the environment in the years ahead."

(Canadian Delegation Report, Chapter 2)

6. Delegations from 113 countries (the USSR and its Eastern European allies did not attend) debated and approved the Declaration on the Human Environment and 109 recommendations for international action.

II. EXPECTATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

7. In opening the Conference, the Secretary General, Maurice Strong, set out the major issues before it. These were:

- A) The Declaration on the Human Environment;
- B) The Action Plan for the Human Environment which contained three principal categories:
 - i) The Global Environmental Assessment or "Earthwatch";
 - ii) Environment Management Activities;
 - iii) Supporting Measures (education, training, funding, etc.).
- C) The Conventions negotiated in advance of the Conference;
- D) The organizational and financial measures to carry forward the implementation of the Conference's decisions.

8. Mr. Strong declared that there were three priority issues that should be addressed:

- A) water - its economic use; the provision of safe water; and waste disposal;
- B) the oceans - the threats to the marine environment and its resources;
- C) the uncontrolled growth of cities, lack of housing, sanitation, etc. and the growth of slums.