

- The criteria for success is clearly different for leaders from the North and the South. In a recent report by a group of experts from developing countries, the following two strategic considerations were set for guiding the South's negotiating position for the 1992 Rio Conference:
 - "Ensuring that the South has adequate 'environmental space' for its future development."
 - "Restructuring global economic relations in such a way that the South obtains the required resources, technology and access to markets enabling it to pursue a development process that is not only environmentally sound but also rapid enough to meet the needs and aspirations of its growing population."⁷

If significant progress is not achieved on either of these two concerns then the Rio Conference will not succeed. If OECD governments are not prepared to make significantly new and large financial commitments for implementing Agenda 21, the Rio Conference and follow-up will fail.

- The reference point for assessing the success or failure of the 1992 Rio Conference must be the future and not the past. Modest progress through incremental steps forward must not be judged as a success if they still fall far short of the action needed to address effectively the many national and global threats to our environment, health and economies. The Rio Conference cannot succeed if nations, including Canada, are not prepared to bite the bullet of reform of those domestic policies now driving unsustainable patterns of development and trade. Fundamental changes are needed.

⁷ Environment and Development: Towards a Common Strategy for the South in the UNCED Negotiations and Beyond, The South Centre, November 1991.