

2. Citizen involvement in government delegations. At the 1993 human rights conference in Vienna, at UNCED in Rio and at other negotiations, Canadian NGOs have collaborated closely with Canadian government delegations, with positive results reported both by officials and by NGOs. NGOs profit from an intensive instruction in the realities of multilateral negotiation; officials profit from immediate advice and a stronger sense of how particular domestic interests might be affected by the agreements under negotiation.

3. Funding. UNCED is now remembered among NGOs as a model of government-NGO collaboration in part because government departments subsidized NGOs to maximize their capacity and effect. At Vancouver, by contrast, NGOs were particularly embittered by the ban imposed against the use of government funds for helping developing-country NGOs attend the people's summit. That decision is considered in the department and among NGOs to have been a mistake.

4. Confronting the problem of representation. As discussed above, this problem does not go away. It has been handled in the past, however, by placing the question of selection to consultations at one remove from DFAIT. Before the Santiago summit, FOCAL with its comprehensive list of contacts was invited to arrange a series of regional round-tables.

The project suffered, mostly from a lack of time, but the principle of inviting knowledgeable outsiders to decide selection and representation questions is sound. In this respect, the department has at hand the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, which is developing the capacity (and an expanding network of contacts) to facilitate consultations that are both policy-relevant and independently organized.