

- d) Decentralization of development to involve communities in the formulation and implementation of the decisions affecting their lives;
- e) Consultation to replace confrontation and domination;
- f) The integration of women into full partnership in all fields of human endeavour; and
- g) Promotion of universal education to raise the consciousness of both the oneness of humanity and the integral connection between humankind and the world of nature.

The one other key NGO intervention in Working Group III was presented by the Four Directions Council on Commodity Trade Mechanisms and Sustainability. The intervention points to the fact that commodity prices are a key factor determining the rate of domestic savings and reinvestment. Commodity prices also influence the rate at which natural resources are used up, and thus whether the rate of use of renewable or recyclable resources is sustainable. The terms of trade for basic commodities is a linkage which the Four Directions Council believes is the most important linkage between environment and development.

The intervention goes on to state that debt relief is a necessary first step in halting the degradation of natural resources in much of the world. But it is only a short-term measure. Longer-term environmental stability must be achieved through a change of the trading system since under current conditions there is still an incentive to overdraw natural resources.

What is needed to make the trade of raw materials compatible with long-term environmental sustainability is higher prices which reflect the total cost of production including the environmental impacts of extraction, the byproducts of processing and the depletion of raw materials. The mechanism which the Four Directions Council proposes be used to raise prices is the anti-dumping provisions contained in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In particular, if agreement could be reached that certain kinds of environmental impacts were to be considered as costs of producing raw materials, any export producer who did not raise prices accordingly would be subject to a trade action.