

- Improving the effectiveness of development assistance programs and ensuring that they improve the capacity of developing countries to minimize the impact of their industrialization and economic growth on the global environment. As developing countries grow and their demands on the global ecosystem become greater, it is increasingly important to encourage them to become effective partners in global efforts to combat and reverse environmental degradation.
- Placing greater emphasis on poverty reduction to prevent the continuing marginalization of the poor and of developing countries.
- Strengthening trends towards democracy and greater respect for human rights, and taking action to prevent or resolve conflict.
- Helping developing countries better integrate themselves into the global economy.

### *Oceans*

Bordering on three oceans, Canada has a considerable interest in the sustainable management of oceans because a large number of its citizens rely on marine resources for their livelihood, culture and recreation.

A number of ocean issues were discussed at the 1996 UNCSD meeting, including: improved fisheries policies, practices and management regimes and their effective implementation; coastal zone management; and the prevention of marine pollution. Canada would like the special session to determine what steps should be taken to act on the resolutions made at this meeting, and how ocean issues can be further advanced and integrated within the United Nations family. Specifically, Canada is interested in:

- Creating a single forum for ocean issues. At present there are a large number of conventions and fora dealing with ocean issues, but no single venue for bringing them together. A single forum, perhaps under the UN Law of the Sea Office, would be useful in promoting integrated discussions on the subject.
- Focusing on land-based sources of marine pollution. There is a need to focus on land based sources of marine pollution, particularly by following up on the Global Program of Action agreed upon at the 1995 Washington Conference.
- Focusing attention on coastal zone management and the sustainable development of coastal areas. Most of the world's population resides close to or in coastal areas and consumes ocean-related foods, making it even more important—as the UN International Year of the Ocean approaches in 1998—to recognize the global importance of coastal zone management.