

Sooner or later, however, the linked issues of environment and development will put pressures on governments to improve the harmony, or at least compatibility, between policies and strategies of various parts of the UN system with those of the Bretton Woods organizations. This calls less for creating new institutions than it does for adjusting the relationships, mandates and resources of existing ones. The recent decisions to set up a new fund with several hundred million dollars under the Montreal Protocol and the GEF now being established at the World Bank are examples of new mechanisms to make existing institutions more effective at the task of helping governments work together to reduce known global risks.

Each of these only became feasible after the analytical work was well advanced to identify actions needed and estimate their costs, much like the work now before Prepcom. This suggests that sectoral recommendations along with careful estimates for their cross-cutting implications should be developed speedily to serve as a basis for consideration of institutional relationships.

Although the sectoral compartments of the UN system challenge effective coordination - especially when both environment and development action is called for - perhaps the deliberate autonomy of the system as laid out in Articles 57 and 63 are more appropriate for the task of bringing global resources to bear at the national level where the transition to sustainable development must prosper, and where countless decisions are reached daily that drive global change.

As a new world order is set in motion by the relaxation of cold-war constraints and a new awareness of human influence on global changes, the best opportunity to consider policy and institutional implications of the profound changes underway will be in Brazil in June 1992. The process of getting there will itself be instructive, and perhaps precedental.