

follow up on the work of UNCED and to implement its commitments. Of particular note to Canada was the summit's call for a successful outcome to the ongoing UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The summit also recommended an "appropriate, internationally agreed arrangement for the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forests."

In Naples in 1994, summit leaders endorsed the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in reviewing the implementation of the Rio process. It also supported the restructuring and replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Leaders also planned to accelerate the application of their national actions called for under the Rio Climate Treaty and to report their progress to each other in Halifax.

Canada and its G-7 partners are working to implement the commitments of the 1992 UNCED concluding the convention on climate change and the

convention on biodiversity. Canada was one of the first countries to sign and ratify these conventions.

The importance Canada places on environmental issues in a G-7 context can be seen from the fact that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Sheila Copps, will host a meeting of G-7 environment ministers at the end of April. Ministers will meet in Hamilton, Ontario. They will discuss global issues of concern such as: environment-economy integration, progress on the issues of climate change and biodiversity, and the future direction of international environmental institutions. Although not part of the formal summit process, the results of the meeting will feed into the sherpa process to guide leaders' discussions.

In Halifax, leaders will follow up on the commitments made at the 1994 Naples Summit to review progress on national plans to implement key UNCED commitments, notably the climate change convention.

ORGANIZED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Among the issues of concern on the new global agenda are the problems of organized crime, including terrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

Canada is determined to strengthen international co-operation to deal with the growth of organized crime. This is a worldwide problem in countries that are reforming toward market-based economies and in developing countries, both of which are increas-

ingly targeted by criminal organizations.

On the issue of money laundering, Canada recognizes the achievement of the G-7 Financial Task Force set up in 1989 to combat the problem, and supports its continued work. To succeed in the fight against money laundering, Canada and its G-7 partners believe that all governments must provide effective measures to prevent the laundering of proceeds from drug trafficking and other serious crimes.

RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

The 1994 Naples Summit was the first time Russia took part directly in the political discussions, with President Boris Yeltsin at the summit table. Prior to 1994, a separate meeting was held with Russia on the margins of the summit, beginning in 1989. At his news conference following the summit, Prime Minister Jean Chretien indicated that Russian association with G-7 political talks would continue in Halifax.

Canada welcomes the important and constructive role Russia can play in helping to address the many problems facing the international community through this closer association with

the political portion of the summit. Canada, along with its other G-7 partners, believes that Russian participation is critical in solving problems such as controlling the spread of nuclear and conventional weapons; ensuring the safety of nuclear power plants; environmental protection; fighting terrorism and organized crime; and preventing and managing regional crises.

Canada and other G-7 members support Russian involvement in the international trade and economic system and are working to bring about its integration, at a pace consistent with its own reforms.