

## VII EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

33. If measured in terms of enthusiasm, originality and inspiration -- notable attributes of the 1972 Stockholm Conference -- then clearly the special commemorative session in Nairobi suffered by comparison. While the Stockholm sense of urgency seemed to be largely missing, this impression will require more careful appraisal in terms of action after the event. Some positive results can nevertheless be identified. The decision on environmental trends and priorities requiring attention over the next decade should provide a useful point of departure for future national and international action. The session also demonstrated that developing countries are now clearly beginning to perceive the importance of the linkage between environmental concerns and the development process, as was evident from the active part they played at the session - a significant advance since Stockholm. More generally, it was recognized that while much has been accomplished since Stockholm, particularly in terms of heightened environmental awareness, concerted action is required at all levels if the further deterioration of the global environment is to be prevented.

34. The presence of many NGO representatives at the Symposium on Environment and the Future, which preceded the special session, proved a valuable opportunity for taking stock of UNEP's relations with NGO's which, from the latter's viewpoint, warrant improvement, particularly with respect to their participation in the policy and decision-making process.

35. While Stockholm was a turning point in history and demanded extraordinary efforts, the Nairobi special session was impelled more by the need to continue a momentum already begun and to take fresh bearings on the environmental cause under new circumstances. Accordingly, the session assumed a workmanlike character rather than being an inspirational pacesetter. The Canadian delegation was guided by the prevailing sense of realism and contributed creditably to the results of the session.