

Each of the following sections begins with CCIC's stated policy goal. This is followed by an overview of the current and projected work of members to achieve this goal.

1. Sustainable Development

Policy goal: Promote and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 commitments for sustainable development made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, including the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000 required by the Global Climate Change Convention.

Current capacity and activities

There is very little activity in the community to prepare for Earth Summit II in June 1997 or its follow-up. Several of the people interviewed felt that Agenda 21 was no longer a relevant focus for work. It is a commonly held view that we are further behind on that agenda than we were before the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Even the Canadian Environmental Network, which is sending several delegates to participate in the NGO delegation, feels that Agenda 21 was too large and ambitious and should not be a focus for policy research and advocacy. Rather, it favours work that addresses the components of Agenda 21 separately. The concepts that frame Agenda 21, and many of its specific objectives, are widely held in mission statements and programs of the organizations surveyed.

Within the community, there are examples of such focused work. One example is the Halifax Initiative, a coalition of environment, development, social justice, and church groups concerned about the policies and practices of the international financial institutions. The Coordinating Committee includes the CCIC, Cultural Survival Canada, the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa (ICCAF), CUSO, OXFAM-Canada, RESULTS Canada, the Social Justice Committee of Montreal, the Sierra Club of Canada, and the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

The goal of the Halifax Initiative is to achieve fundamental reform of the Bretton Woods institutions to have them commit to democratic governance and sustainable development. Beginning with the G-7 Summit in Halifax in 1995, the Halifax Coalition has released a G-7 report card on the eve of each summit, commenting on progress in the areas of institutional reform, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability. The Coalition meets regularly with officials from the Department of Finance, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and CIDA, to exchange views on