

Hopeful signs are emerging in many countries, where cabinet-level committees are addressing environmental issues, either in the context of UNCED, or in response to domestic environmental imperatives. Finance departments are working with environment departments, and forestry departments with foreign affairs departments, to better understand the implications of and formulate desirable outcomes to the complex issues before UNCED. The experience gained in these ad-hoc processes at the national level can hopefully be translated into permanent arrangements for integrating environment into economic decision making.

Capacity Building

In order for countries, in particular developing countries, to assess and contribute to the resolution of both global and local environmental problems while meeting their own development priorities, a major effort in regional- and national- level capacity building will be needed.

Human resource and technological capacity building will require a concerted effort among multilateral institutions and national governments. Such efforts may perhaps be best undertaken on a regional basis, building on existing institutional arrangements.

6. Conclusions

The ideas presented in this paper are intended to promote substantive debate on institutional issues in Working Group III during the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting. It is hoped that such discussion may encourage delegations to determine which issues need to be pursued in more detail, and to identify options to pursue in negotiations on institutional arrangements.

1 August, 1991

Delegation of Canada to the UNCED Preparatory Committee