

1. Institutional Objectives for UNCED

Institutions serve the needs of countries and individuals. In the context of UNCED, these needs can be divided into those which promote environmentally sustainable development nationally and regionally; and those which are intended to protect shared global environmental resources.

Institutional arrangements are needed to:

- a) Put in place the necessary multilateral arrangements, both within and outside the UN system, to sustain the political momentum and implement the decisions taken at UNCED
- b) Implement international agreements on global environmental issues
- c) Provide the means for strengthening capacity of local, national and regional institutions, both governmental and outside government, to plan and implement policies, programmes and activities that are environmentally sustainable.

2. Characteristics of Appropriate Institutional Arrangements

It is obvious that a range of institutional arrangements are needed to meet different objectives and to carry out different functions. While there is a general preference among countries to not create new institutions, there is a need for the preparatory committee to define new roles for existing institutions where appropriate, and to propose innovative institutional arrangements where existing structures are inadequate to meet the challenges of UNCED. A combination of revitalization, renewal and reform of institutional arrangements is clearly called for. What is needed is an evolution, not a revolution in institutions. These changes will depend on strong leadership at the international and national levels.

The following observations on the characteristics of innovative institutional arrangements are drawn from recent experience and deliberations:

- o political commitment must be sustained
- o arrangements involving hybrid groupings of international organizations, governments, eminent persons and private interests, or involving broad-based groups of experts, are often more creative and progressive than formal structures in finding solutions to complex problems