

The Houston Economic Summit

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CANADA

Sommet économique de Houston

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Canada and the Global Environment

At the 1989 Paris Summit, the environment was a key issue and occupied a significant part of leaders' discussions. Canada actively encouraged such attention at summits, international meetings and in international organizations.

The resolution of environmental issues and long-term economic prosperity depend on the adoption of sustainable development approaches, as recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) in 1987. Canada is currently developing the *Green Plan* - a comprehensive action plan for implementing sustainable development in Canada - which is based on the following tenets:

- improved environmental information for decision-makers, as reflected in Prime Minister Mulroney's call at the Paris Summit for the development of environmental indicators;
- improved environmental education, both domestically and internationally through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);
- enhanced international partnerships, multilateral or bilateral, with particular attention to the environmental relations between developed and developing countries; and
- enhanced participation in international scientific efforts, such as through the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

Canada believes that, in support of its domestic efforts, concerted international action is required to address global environmental challenges. Canada also believes the international community must be prepared to take decisions and actions, even in the face of scientific

and economic uncertainty, in order to protect adequately the environment for future generations.

Both industrialized and developing countries must adopt sound environmental policies. Developing countries, however, remain concerned that their participation in this process could slow the achievement of their economic and developmental objectives. Thus, Canada believes that long-term solutions to global environmental problems will require the transfer of additional resources and technologies from developed to developing countries.

Climate change is the most important environmental issue facing humanity today. Canada - along with most countries at the May 1990 Bergen Conference on Sustainable Development - believes that a first step must be the stabilization, by the year 2000 and at present levels, of emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases. Canada is committed to producing a national strategy, including targets and schedules, following the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and no later than the start of negotiations of a framework convention.

The Second World Climate Conference (Geneva, October 27-November 7, 1990) will provide a forum for discussing, at the ministerial level, targets, schedules and national action plans. This conference will set the stage for the launch of negotiations on a global climate change convention.

The conclusion of a framework convention on climate change by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, along with supporting protocols outlining how the convention's principles are to be implemented, is a high priority. Canada will participate actively in