

These are a few of the many activities routinely reported to the General Assembly which warrant evaluation during the preparatory process for 1992. Many other activities conducted under the authority of governing bodies of UN system organizations and agencies can also contribute significantly to the decisions of the conference. But to ensure that all of these contributions are fully brought to bear and utilized will require new levels of inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation during the preparatory process and this will also have important staffing and budgetary implications. The preparatory process itself will provide experience that may deserve to be applied in the future.

It will be a particular challenge to develop new and improved means of encouraging NGO contributions to the preparatory process for 1992 in ways that creatively compliment, supplement and inter-act with the official preparatory process. This offers the prospect for a unique new alliance between the governmental and non-governmental components in the preparatory process that can also be applied in the future.

UNCED in 1992 will present a unique opportunity to strengthen institutional linkages between environment and development and build a durable political basis for increased international support and economic cooperation to replace "foreign aid" in a new framework for international security.

But for all that can be done at the international level, the future of these issues ultimately rests on an informed, educated public with good leadership. Many international mechanisms are in place and are able to carry out any number of services for the governments they are anxious to serve. A key missing element however is policy set by governments at a higher level than the sectoral interests that govern most of these institutions today, and sufficient resources to carry out policy objectives.

The combined total resources available to the UN system and the Bretton Woods organizations have a potential for great influence, especially considering indebtedness and the current lack of private investment in developing countries. But there is no single intergovernmental forum to set policies or goals, even at the highest level of generality, and so long as the UN system reaches decisions on a one-country-one-vote basis, and Bretton Woods institutions on a weighted vote basis it is difficult to imagine how policies could be made uniform without jeopardizing the ability to raise significant international funding in private financial markets.