

Environment

1. Environment is a top priority for international cooperation. Environmental policies can contribute to enhancing growth, employment and living standards, for example through investments in appropriate technologies, energy efficiency improvements and cleaning-up polluted areas.
2. We urge the multilateral development banks to continue making progress in promoting local participation and incorporating environmental considerations into their programmes.
3. We support the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in reviewing progress in the implementation of the Rio process. We look forward to the implementation of the Conventions already concluded, in particular those on biological diversity and climate-change and in this respect we will work for the success of the forthcoming Conferences on these subjects in Nassau and Berlin.
4. We welcome the restructuring and the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and we support its choice as the permanent financial mechanism of these two Conventions.
We welcome the recent conclusion of the Convention on Desertification and the results of the Conference on Small Islands, which add to the framework agreed in Rio.
5. We are determined to speed up the implementation of our national plans called for under the Rio Climate Treaty and we will each report what we have achieved at next year's Summit. We also recognize the need to develop steps for the post -2000 period.

Developing Countries

We welcome the economic progress of many developing countries. We are concerned, however, by the stagnation and continued poverty in some countries, particularly in Africa. Since rapid population growth has aggravated poverty in many countries, we stress the importance of a positive outcome of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development.