

indigenous peoples). Canada has committed itself to the stabilization of CO₂ emissions but has not yet set out the practical measures it will take to achieve this.

- Canada must also support the internationalization of the Polluter Pays Principle into areas such as climate change, building on the position it has already taken in the early 1980s in the OECD.
- Canada needs to once again articulate its distinctive role as a middle power in multilateral environmental fora and find a domestic rationale for staking out this position. Of late, Canada has placed too much weight on its membership in the G-7; rather than its role in the United Nations. Canadians should not be lulled by the notion that we are witnessing a resurgence of the authority of the United Nations. What we have seen is a re-assertion of the authority of the Security Council, through the coordination among the Permanent Five.
- Canada, as a contribution to the Rio Conference follow-up and implementation of Agenda 21, should seriously consider the advantages of converting the IDRC from a Canadian to an international institution for major new programs of knowledge transfer and capacity building in support of sustainable development.
- The Canadian development of national and regional roundtables on sustainable development is a major innovation and asset in involving key sectors of society in shaping new policies and strategies, in raising public awareness and understanding and in preparing for the 1992 Rio Conference.
- Canada's home grown expertise in information systems could make a major practical contribution to the monitoring and implementation of the decisions made at UNCED. The Canadian government is remarkable in having a coherent view of geographic data, cross-referenced with economic and statistical information.
- The 1992 Earth Charter should build on the 1972 Stockholm Declaration but must now go far beyond it. Given the political importance of the Earth Charter and the many other difficult issues on the agenda for Working Group III at the fourth session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee, it should now be shifted to a special group to negotiate and finalize the draft text for presentation to the Rio Conference.
- As a major priority, international environmental laws, procedures and legal institutions must be strengthened to secure compliance and to avoid or resolve environmental conflicts. New approaches to settling environmental disputes will be required.