

(BCSD), and the Paris meeting of environment and development NGOs to be entered directly into the record and discussions at UNCED.

The modalities of their involvement in the Summit will need to be worked out both by the preparatory committee and by the non-government groups themselves. Important questions include the numbers of such groups which can speak at UNCED, the representativeness of those that do have a formal role, and how to allow for their substantive input while respecting the need for governments to undertake final negotiations among themselves.

Hopefully, the UNCED experience will lead multilateral organizations including UN organizations to draw increasingly on the expertise of groups outside governments. It would be useful for the Preparatory Committee to consider at a later stage more routine ways for cooperation with NGOs including mechanisms for effective cooperation between the UN system, other multilateral organizations and NGOs on matters related to environment and development. Possible approaches include encouragement to other negotiating fora and to UN specialized agencies to develop consultative processes and regularized mechanisms for non-governmental input; the broadening of CONGO membership and changes in criteria for membership; use of hybrid government/non-government fora, as discussed above; and the use of permanent or ad hoc advisory bodies of eminent environmental scientists.

5. The Role of Regional- and National-Level Institutions

National Approaches

International initiatives to implement UNCED results will need to be mirrored at the regional and national levels. The 1972 Stockholm Conference resulted not only in the creation of international institutions, such as UNEP. It also gave impetus to the creation of environmental coordinating ministries and environmental protection boards in many countries.

Many of the problems which are under discussion at UNCED, such as deforestation, soil loss, freshwater protection, and land-based sources of marine pollution are national or regional in scope rather than global. Many of these environmental concerns are central development concerns which need to be treated at the national and sub-national levels. Global environmental problems such as biodiversity loss and climate change require action to be taken mainly at the national level.

In both industrialized and developing countries, innovative institutional arrangements will be needed to integrate economic and social decision making with environmental policy goals.