

3. Assistance to reduce global risk. Today, a third category meriting international financial assistance is apparent - the additional funding needed by disadvantaged countries to enable them to reduce their potential contribution to global risk; to help protect the "global commons".

The problem of stratospheric ozone depletion is a current example of a situation in which many developing countries have been asked to shoulder responsibility - and extra costs - of refraining from actions which could worsen a global problem that had been created mostly by the industrialized states, and to which developing country contributions are still negligible.

The developing country view was expressed at the 1989 meeting of non-aligned government leaders in Belgrade:

"the developed countries, which bear the primary responsibility for damage to the environment must also bear the primary responsibility for global environmental protection which includes the provision of additional resources for developing countries." New measures "must in particular include net additional financial resources and access to and transfer of alternative clean technologies" for which they suggested the creation of a "special international fund to promote international cooperation in the field of environment, to finance research and development of alternative technologies and to bring these technologies within easy reach of developing countries."

But with growing public concern about "global change" issues, especially climate change, attention has focused in the industrialized world on the need for increased international funding in that specific context. The Declaration by more than twenty government leaders in the Hague in March 1989 on the proposition that "most of the emissions that affect the atmosphere at present originate in the industrialized nations" and these nations "have special obligations to assist developing countries", showed that the need is recognized by a growing number of developed, as well as developing countries.

Recognizing the deficiency vis-a-vis sustainable development in general, with new perceptions of the need for collective action to reduce global risks, and given the long-standing issue since Stockholm of "additionality", many new ideas have been advanced or are in the process of being developed for the creation of new environmental "funds" to accomplish various objectives related to global environmental issues and sustainable development. Increasingly, they include funds tied to atmospheric and greenhouse issues, of which one of the first was a 1988 proposal for a "World Atmosphere Fund" financed in part by a levy on fossil fuel consumption by industrialized countries to mobilize resources for an "Action Plan for Protection of the Atmosphere," and a