

IDEAS OF SOME DELEGATIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE UNCED PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Introduction

It is recognized by most delegations that the work of Working Group III on Legal, Institutional and Related Matters is necessarily in its early stages. Several delegates have mentioned that it is important to have a better understanding of the likely outcomes on the technical issues under discussion in Working Groups I and II before defining institutional remedies. Notwithstanding the desirability of awaiting such outcomes, many delegates recognize that discussions need to begin on possible institutional arrangements for implementing UNCED results, taking into account the emerging results from the other Working Groups.

With this in mind, Canada has been exchanging views on an informal basis with a number of delegates from industrialized and developing nations, and with representatives of international organizations, on institutional issues arising out of the second preparatory committee meeting of UNCED. These discussions have identified a number of topics which delegates consider important and worthy of further discussion and analysis. These are:

- a) the need for high-level coordination within the UN system
- b) mechanisms for integration of environment into the development activities of relevant UN bodies and expert and specialized agencies
- c) the role of organizations outside the UN system, in particular expert international NGOs and the business community
- d) the role of regional- and national-level institutional mechanisms to implement UNCED outcomes and the need for capacity building, particularly in developing countries.

This paper elaborates a number of these issues and begins to explore options which may warrant consideration by delegations at the third preparatory committee meeting. Institutional arrangements which evolve during UNCED may represent initial efforts to solve complex problems. Flexibility will be important, and commitments to final outcomes may not be achieved, except for the most straightforward institutional questions. On complex institutional issues, interim arrangements may be appropriate.