



*In response to rising concern about the condition of man's habitat, a UN Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm from June 2 to 16, 1972, attended by 1,200 delegates representing 130 nations.*

*Seen here (from the left): Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations; King Gustav Adolf VI of Sweden; and Mr. Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the Conference.*

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only after ratification by two-thirds of the members of the UN (including the five permanent members of the Security Council).

The enlargement of ECOSOC and the creation of additional subsidiary bodies sharpened the already acute need for a substantive review of the Council's coordinating machinery and policy-making role in the multi-faceted area of the United Nations economic, social and related activities, including development. This is needed if the Council is to properly fulfill its mandate under the UN Charter (Article 62-66), an important objective of Canada's UN policy. Following initiatives from various quarters, the fifty-third Session of ECOSOC set up an open-ended working group

to consider how the Council should proceed. In pursuit of the objective of strengthening machinery for coordinating and rationalizing the activities of the UN system, Canada chaired the working group. Agreement was reached on initial reforms in the areas of procedure and documentation and, more important, on the establishment of a more formal working group to meet in New York, in January, 1973, to review the terms of reference of all the Council's committees, commissions and other subordinate bodies, to consider if the number of such bodies could be reduced and to report to ECOSOC's session in April, 1973.

Although not a member of the Council at present, Canada holds membership on many of its most impor-