

- f) Examination of the institutional arrangements required for the implementation of the conclusions of UNCED.

The initial response to the mandate of NGOs present at our Daily NGO Strategy Sessions was tepid. Many felt that all cross-sectoral issues should have been included in Working Group III's mandate. Many of us felt rather strongly that most of the important and very complex development issues would be ill-suited to the potentially unwieldy and possibly unproductive forum of the Plenary. By the time the mandate was adopted by the Plenary, many NGOs questioned the commitment on the part of the "powers that be" to deal with the development side of the UNCED equation in a sincere and meaningful way.

A number of our Strategy Session-attending NGOs, including the International Institute on Environment and Development, Ecotropia Brazil and Commonwealth of the US, prepared an intervention advocating that a broad interpretation be given to the mandate of Working Group III to ensure that the following issues are addressed by Working Group III:

- a) Financial flows and the primary roles and functioning of the institutions responsible for foreign aid, the debt issue, international commodity prices and trade terms;
- b) Equity issues at both the international and national levels including the present unequal pattern of resource consumption, distribution of wealth and access to natural resources, the special role of women, of indigenous groups and the particular vulnerability of those marginalized by environmental degradation, inequitable patterns of land distribution and population pressures;
- c) The roles and functioning of the UN bodies dealing in particular with environment and development, international financial institutions and the role of the General Secretariat;
- d) The negative impact of trade and commodity prices on developing countries; and
- e) Access of developing countries to the transfer of technology on equitable terms.