

ment was significantly advanced in the World Conservation Strategy of 1980 and a number of National Conservation Strategies have sprung up since then that could strengthen national contributions during the current preparatory process.

Whereas UNEP and UNESCO and other agencies provide limited funds to these groups to carry out specific project work, it would be useful to have funds available outside normal project funds from UN agencies and programs so that properly qualified groups could play a more effective role during the preparatory period as well as at the 1992 conference itself, and thereafter.

Many of the institutional options governments will consider in 1992 will by then have the benefit of experience based on specific work now underway, such as the IPCC - now being prolonged to support ongoing negotiations, and the operation of funding arrangements under the Montreal Protocol and the GEF.

Just as members of UNEP's Governing Council decided in 1989 "to mandate the Bureau of its fifteenth session to meet with the Bureaux of counterpart organs of UN system Specialized Agencies and other organs to develop more positive and collaborative relationships", the Assembly could encourage similar relationships between the UNCED Preparatory Committee and other governing bodies, inside and outside the UN system, albeit with a broader, environment-and-development scope.

Other examples of experimental work underway are referred to in the "Views expressed by the Governing Council of UNEP on efforts towards sustainable and environmentally sound development".

For example, the Council records its welcome for the ACC initiative to "test and apply knowledge available within the UN system for the incorporation of environmental considerations into national development planning and policy formulation," and the use of inter-agency mechanisms to consider "environmental guidelines and their application to the operational aspects of the system."

Similarly, the Council noted the need for "developing ways of incorporating the environmental dimension in development planning and policies, and of planned experimentation in selected countries," including the need that "National accounts must include accounting for environmental resources, not just financial resources." Progress in the UN Statistical Commission on current proposals for environmental accounting within the framework of the System of National Accounts might also be taken into account during preparations for 1992.

Reviewing reports received from governing bodies the Council noted that "energy and transport issues, despite their great importance for an environmentally sound and sustainable development, have received relatively little attention in the reports from governing bodies of UN organs" and suggested "the reason might be the lack of UN bodies with an integrated responsibility for these two fields of policy." This seems to fit the diagnosis contained in the WCED report and raises the question of whether, as part of the preparatory process for the 1992 conference, steps might be initiated to examine this issue further and perhaps recommend changes, without awaiting the conference itself.