

## INTERIMINARY REMARKS

The further deterioration of North-South relations was another prominent underlying theme of the conference. As the Cold War wanes, a new type of power logic may be emerging, pitting poor nations against rich nations with environmental change providing much of the leverage the South needs to get a fair deal from the North on economic and equity questions. Some developing countries have clearly come to the conclusion that the second wave of environmental concern now sweeping Europe, North America and Japan, provides them with political leverage, however negative, which they can use in bargaining for action on those things that concern them most.

The rapid population growth and increasing energy use of developing countries reinforces the point that the industrialized world cannot deal with global warming on its own. Rich nations will have to begin to address other issues of crucial importance to developing countries if meaningful international agreements on the environment are to be concluded and implemented. These include the issues of resource sharing; financial burden sharing; debt reduction; trade access; and preferential access to intellectual property and technology.

The policy choices and action we take now will be played out in future climate trends. Even if every individual on the planet were transformed into an ecologically rational animal, there would still be a lag between societal action and global ecological reaction due to the sheer momentum of climate change. The concentrations of greenhouse gases will continue to build up in the atmosphere and the longer it takes to deal with them, the more climate change we will be committed to.

The broad scope of ideas for action and policy options is suggested by the following shortlist of options: creation of new indices of climate change and sustainable development to measure how well we are tackling environmental problems; the use of remote sensing as an early warning mechanism of environmental problems; an expanded role for international institutions; the creation of a world atmospheric trust fund; a tax on carbon emissions; use of regulatory and economic incentives; and reforestation.