

2. The secretariat has addressed the joint issues of consumption patterns and population growth in PC46. We suggest that the Prepcom take a step further and develop concrete proposals related to the consumption patterns of rich countries identifying key resources such as energy for which consumption could be reduced through mass education campaigns and through the mass media.

At the same time we support putting in place programmes to facilitate building the capacity of developing countries to implement their own policies on population. There is considerable evidence to show that the most effective way to deal with this issue is to improve the standards of health, education, food security and income of the poorest people and especially of women.

3. National governments, non-governmental agencies, the private sector and especially the multilateral agencies must address far more seriously than they are doing at present the need to improve the status of women both nationally and globally. Women are key managers of natural resources at the local level in many countries, are major economic actors in the subsistence and informal sectors and retain prime responsibility for household management in all countries. Providing adequate support for these activities and most importantly providing access to decision-making structures will have a major positive impact. In this respect we urge the Prepcom to agree to the draft decision on the status of women which is now before you in document L40.

4. Local and municipal governments, NGOs and people's movements are increasingly the institutions which are the most effective in dealing with the day to day realities of poverty and sustainable development. They need the resources, training and enabling policy frameworks in order to become fully effective. Canada is hosting two conferences this year which directly address these issues, the World Cities and their Environment Mayors Conference being held in Toronto this week and The third Summit Conference of major Cities of the World to be held in Montreal in October of this year. We urge the Prepcom to fully integrate the results of these meetings into agenda 21 and the UNCED process. We also recommend that the Prepcom identify better processes to ensure full collaboration between governments, NGOs and industry during the months leading up to June of next year, during the conference itself and beyond.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.